C5-SPECIFIC ANTIBODIES FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the treatment of glomerulonephritis (GN) and other inflammatory diseases, and more generally to therapeutic treatments involving the pharmacologic inhibition of a patient's complement system. In particular, the invention relates to the use of antibodies specific to human complement component C5 to accomplish such therapeutic treatment. The invention also relates to compositions comprising native monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) specific to human complement component C5 that block complement hemolytic activity and C5a generation at concentrations that substantially reach the theoretical one to two stoichiometric limit of antibody to antigen that can be achieved by a bivalent antibody. The invention further provides recombinant mAbs that are derivatives (including monovalent derivatives) of these native mAbs that provide substantially the same blocking activities as the native mAbs.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

I. Immune Complex Mediated Disease

The formation of immune complexes is the typical consequence of the interaction of antigens with specific antibodies. The inflammatory response that ensues when such complexes accumulate in a limited area is an important element of normal host defenses, leading to immune complex clearance and antigen destruction by phagocytic cells. In contrast, immune complex diseases are reflections of excess complex formation or retarded clearance, usually under conditions of exceptional antigen challenge or immunologic dysregulation. Under such circumstances, immune complexes are deposited or formed at specific tissue sites and resulting inflammatory responses lead

to disease states due to localized or systemic tissue damage. The kidney, and more specifically the kidney structure known as the glomerulus, is a particularly important site of immune complex deposition resulting in the development of serious disease conditions.

Human studies, and studies using animal models of human diseases, have implicated the complement system in the pathologies associated with a number of immune complex associated disorders. The activation of complement that mediates the pathology associated with these disorders may be a consequence of an autoimmune mechanism, or can be non-immunologic in origin.

The hypersensitivity response that occurs when antibodies bind to antigens either in tissues or in the circulation results from the activation of complement and the release of molecules that mediate inflammation. This process is classified as either being mediated by the binding of antibody to fixed tissue or cell bound antigens (Type II hypersensitivity) or to circulating antigens, resulting in the formation of circulating immune complexes and their subsequent pathogenic deposition in tissues (Type III hypersensitivity).

Type II hypersensitivity is mediated through the activation of complement following the binding of antibodies to fixed tissue antigens. The inflammatory response that ensues results from the activation of the proinflammatory and lytic components of the complement system and the subsequent recruitment of stimulated leukocytes to the sites of immune complex formation. The increased vascular permeability that results from the anaphylatoxic activities of C3a and C5a further enhances immune complex deposition and leukocyte recruitment.

The cross-linking of antibody bound cells or tissues to effector cells such as neutrophils, platelets, NK cells, and monocytes via their Fc receptors also plays a proinflammatory role. Such cross-linking activates effector cells, stimulating the release of oxygen radicals, prostaglandins, and leukotrienes, which release is further potentiated by the

actions of activated complement components.

Examples of Type II hypersensitivity-mediated conditions include hyperacute rejection of transplanted organs, autoimmune hemolytic and thrombocytopenic states, Goodpasture's syndrome (and associated glomerulonephritis and pulmonary hemorrhage), myasthenia gravis, pathologic sequellae associated with insulin-dependent diabetes melitus, and pemphigus vulgaris.

Type III hypersensitivity reactions involving circulating antigens can also result in the development of numerous pathologic conditions. These include glomerulonephritis (discussed in detail below), vasculitis (a potentially life-threatening inflammatory condition of large and/or small blood vessels), rheumatoid arthritis, dermatitis, and other disorders.

Other diseases associated with type III hypersensitivity reactions include autoimmune diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosis (SLE), many infectious diseases, neoplastic diseases, and a wide variety of other conditions (Dixon, et al. Immune Complex Injury, in Samter, (ed.) Immunological Diseases, 4th ed. Little Brown & Co. Boston, 1987).

II. Glomerulonephritis

The glomerulus is a key structural and functional element of the kidney. Each glomerulus is found as part of a larger structure that serves as the main functional unit of the kidney and is called a nephron. About a million nephrons are found in each kidney. Each glomerulus is a network of up to fifty parallel capillaries encased in a structure known as Bowman's capsule. The area inside Bowman's capsule that is not taken up by the glomerular capillaries is known as Bowman's space. The glomerulus functions as a filter, separating water and certain solutes from the proteins and cells of the blood into Bowman's space for further processing in the convoluted tubules, loop of Henle, and collecting duct of the nephron.

Glomerulonephritis (GN) is a disease of the kidney characterized by inflammation and resulting enlargement of the glomeruli that is typically due to immune complex formation. The accumulation of immune complexes in the glomeruli results in

inflammatory responses, involving inter alia hypercellularity, that can cause total or partial blockage of the glomerulus through, among other factors, narrowing of capillary lumens. One result of this process is the inhibition of the normal filtration function of the glomerulus. Blockage may occur in large numbers of glomeruli, directly compromising kidney function and often causing the abnormal deposition of proteins in the walls of the capillaries making up the glomerulus. Such deposition can, in turn, cause damage to glomerular basement membranes. Those glomeruli that are not blocked develop increased permeability, allowing large amounts of protein to pass into the urine, a condition referred to as proteinuria.

In many cases of severe GN, pathological structures called crescents are formed within the Bowman's space, further impeding glomerular filtration. These structures can only be seen by microscopic examination of tissue samples obtained by biopsy or necropsy, and are thus not always observed in those patients in which they occur. Crescents are a manifestation of hypercellularity and are thought to arise from the extensive abnormal proliferation of parietal epithelial cells, the cells that form the inner lining of the Bowman's capsule. Clinical research has shown that there is a rough correlation between the percentage of glomeruli with crescents and the clinical severity of the disease, and thus the patient's prognosis. When present in large numbers, crescents are a poor prognostic sign.

Symptoms of GN include: proteinuria; reduced glomerular filtration rate (GFR); serum electrolyte changes including azotemia (uremia, excessive blood urea nitrogen - BUN) and salt retention, leading to water retention resulting in hypertension and edema; hematuria and abnormal urinary sediments including red cell casts; hypoalbuminemia; hyperlipidemia; and lipiduria.

In 1990, over 210,000 patients in the United States required hemodialysis or transplantation for chronic renal failure at an annual cost in excess of 7 billion dollars, according to the United States Renal Data System (USRDS). The USRDS compiles data on kidney disease in the United States in conjunction with

the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Division of Kidney, Urologic, and Hematologic Diseases, of the National Institutes of Health (NIDDKD). The USRDS estimates that the costs of treatment for renal failure are now increasing by 20 percent annually.

GN is the third leading cause of death in end-stage renal disease patients, exceeded only by diabetes and hypertension. As a result, there is a clear and long felt need in the medical community for effective treatments for this condition. Research aimed at the development of new treatments for GN is ongoing worldwide. In the United States, the NIDDKD, the National Kidney Foundation, and several other public and private organizations sponsor research in this area. The National Kidney Foundation alone supplies over two million dollars annually to fund the efforts of kidney researchers.

III. Current Treatments for GN

Corticosteroid administration, typically as high doses of "pulse" intravenous methylprednisolone or oral prednisone therapy, is currently considered the most effective pharmacologic agent available for the treatment of GN. Such steroid therapy is often administered in combination with cytotoxic general immunosuppressive agents such as azathioprine or cyclophosphamide. The overall immune suppression and resulting increased susceptibility to infection, along with other debilitating side effects associated with both steroid and cytotoxic drug administration, limit the effective use of these drugs.

Aspirin-like non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) have also been used to reduce the glomerular inflammation and enlargement of GN. These drugs are not routinely used for this purpose, however, probably because of their relatively weak anti-inflammatory effects and propensity to cause gastrointestinal and other side effects in many patients.

The administration of anticoagulants such as heparin or warfarin sodium, and antithrombotic agents such as cyproheptadine, dipyridamole, or sulfinpyrazone, has been used

on the basis of evidence suggesting the involvement of the coagulation process in the genesis of glomerular crescents. However, objective evidence of benefit from such therapies in animals afflicted with experimentally induced crescentic GN has been inconsistent. Also, anticoagulants are dangerous drugs, as they can potentiate life-threatening bleeding episodes. They are especially hazardous in this regard in patients with advanced renal failure.

In addition to pharmacologic approaches, intensive plasma exchange (plasmapheresis) of 2 to 4 liters of plasma daily (or in some cases three times a week) can dramatically reduce high levels of circulating immune complexes when acute intervention in the inflammatory process is needed. Such treatment is expensive and requires that the patient be connected to the plasmapheresis machine for many hours each week. In addition, all procedures in which blood is removed from and returned to a patient are associated with an increased risk of infection. Nonetheless, plasma exchange is currently considered the most effective non-pharmacological treatment for removal of circulating immune complexes which can cause GN.

Circulating immune complex levels can also be decreased by eliminating or reducing the source of the antigen or antigens contained in the complexes by, for example, effective therapy of an underlying infection or change in an antibiotic. However, while such therapy is almost always a treatment of choice, great care must be taken since reduction of the antigen load alters the molar ratio of antigen to antibody involved in forming immune complexes and thus a dangerous temporary exacerbation of the inflammatory process may occur (see discussion below in Background Physiology & Pathology).

IV. Antibody Engineering

Native antibodies are multi-subunit animal protein molecules with highly specific antigen-binding properties. Animals make multiple classes of antibodies. There are five major classes (IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG and IgM) and a variety of subclasses. Native antibodies are made up of two or more heterodimeric

subunits each containing one heavy (H) and one light (L) chain. The differences between antibody classes derive from their different H chains. H chains have a molecular weight of about 53 kDa, while L chains are about 23 kDa in mass.

Every individual native antibody has one type of L chain and one type of H chain, which are held together by disulfide bonds to form a heterodimeric subunit. Typically a native antibody (e.g., an IgG) has two such subunits, which are also held together by disulfide bonds. Within each chain, units of about 110 amino acid residues fold so as to form compact domains. Each domain is held together by a single intrachain disulfide bond. L chains have two domains, while H chains have four or five. Most H chains have a hinge region after the first (i.e., most amino-terminally located) two domains. The disulfide bonds linking together the heterodimeric subunits are located at the hinge regions. The hinge region is particularly sensitive to proteolytic cleavage, such proteolysis yielding two or three fragments (depending on the precise site of cleavage), a non-antigen binding fragment containing only H chain C regions (Fc) and one bivalent (Fab'2) or two monovalent (Fab) antigen binding fragments. The hinge region allows the antigen binding regions (each made up of a light chain and the first two domains of a heavy chain) to move freely relative to the rest of the native antibody, which includes the remaining heavy chain domains.

The first domain of each chain is highly variable in amino acid sequence, providing the vast spectrum of antibody binding specificities found in each individual. These are known as variable heavy (VH) and variable light (VL) domains. The second and subsequent (if any) domains of each chain are relatively invariant in amino acid sequence. These are known as constant heavy (CH) and constant light (CL) domains.

Each variable region contains three loops of hypervariable sequence that provide a complementary structure to that of the antigen and are critical in determining the antigen binding specificity of the antibody, as they are the contact sites for binding to the antigen. These loops are known as

complementarity determining regions, or CDRs. Each variable domain is made up of three CDRs embedded in four much less variable framework segments (FRs). Together, the sets of collinear CDRs and FRs are in large part responsible for determining the three dimensional conformation of the variable regions of antibody molecules.

CDRs and FRs are features that have been deduced from structural properties of antibody variable regions. Both amino acid sequence (primary structure) and three dimensional modeling (deduced secondary and tertiary structure) of antibody variable regions have been used by various researchers to define CDRs and, by default, FRs. While the positions of the CDRs are beyond question, not all workers in the art agree upon the precise locations of the boundaries of each CDR in VH or VL regions; there is no clear cut structural marker delineating CDR/FR boundaries.

Two definitions of CDR location are currently in general use in the art. These are the "sequence variability" definition of Kabat et al. ("Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest," 4th ed. Washington, D.C.: Public Health Service, N.I.H.) and the "structural variability" definition of Chothia and Lesk (J. Mol. Biol. 1987, 196:901). As used herein, the terms VL CDR1, VL CDR2, VL CDR3, VH CDR1, VH CDR2, and VH CDR3 refer minimally to the region of overlap between the regions designated for each CDR by each of these two definitions, and maximally to the total region spanned by the combination of the regions designated for each CDR by each of these two definitions.

One problem that antibody engineering attempts to address is the immune activity of a human patient that occurs in response to a native murine (or other non-human animal) antibody, typically a mAb, that is being administered to the patient for therapeutic purposes. This activity against murine antibodies is characterized by a human anti-mouse antibody (HAMA) response that can have deleterious effects on treatment efficacy and patient health. It has been found that almost all such human anti-non-human antibody ("HAMA type") activity is directed at

the constant domains and at the FR regions of the variable domains of native non-human antibodies.

By manipulating the nucleic acid molecules encoding antibody H and L chains it is possible to incorporate non-human variable regions into antibodies otherwise made up of human constant regions. The resulting antibodies are referred to as "chimeric antibodies," and are typically less prone to eliciting HAMA type responses than are the non-human antibodies from which the variable regions are derived.

An even more effective approach to eliminating the potential of a non-human antibody to elicit a HAMA type response is to "humanize" it, i.e., to replace its non-human framework regions with human ones. One way of achieving such humanization involves the insertion of polynucleotide fragments encoding the non-human CDRs of the antibody to be humanized into a nucleic acid molecule encoding an otherwise human antibody (with human constant regions if desired) so as to replace the human CDRs and to use the resulting nucleic acid molecule to express the encoded "humanized" antibody.

Unfortunately, however, humanization of non-human antibodies has unpredictable effects on antibody antigen interactions, e.g., antigen binding properties. Some of this unpredictability stems from the properties of the CDRs. Certain CDRs may be more amenable to the construction of humanized antibodies that retain the properties of the non-human CDR donor antibody than others. While the CDRs are key to the antigen binding properties of an antibody, CDRs and FRs must interact appropriately if the antigen specificity of an antibody is to be retained following humanization. The effects of combination with particular human FRs on uncharacterized non-human CDRs cannot be reliably predicted by any known method. However, the successful humanization of an antibody provides information that, in general, facilitates the successful humanization of the CDRs of that antibody using other human or altered human FRs. In addition, approaches are available that facilitate tailoring human FRs to enhance the likelihood of successful humanization.

Other problems addressed by antibody engineering include efficient antibody production and alteration of antibody pharmacokinetics. Recombinant protein production is generally most efficiently carried out in bacterial hosts. The large size and multimeric nature of native antibodies makes their production in bacteria difficult. One approach to dealing with production problems is to use recombinant DNA methods to construct antibodies that have their H and L chains joined by a linker peptide to form a single chain (sc) antibody. As described below, there are several types of sc antibodies that can be constructed.

As is the case for humanization, the effects on antigen binding properties of constructing a particular type of sc antibody using H and L chains that have not been characterized with regard to their ability to function as part of an sc antibody cannot be reliably predicted by any known method. However, the successful construction of any one type of sc antibody from a particular native antibody provides information that, in general, facilitates the successful construction of other types of sc antibodies from that native antibody.

Single chain antibodies may include one each of only VH and VL domains, in which case they are referred to as scFv antibodies; they may include only one each of VH, VL, CH, and CL domains, in which case they are referred to as scFab antibodies; or they may contain all of the variable and constant regions of a native antibody, in which case they are referred to as full length sc antibodies.

The differing sizes of these antibodies imparts each with differing pharmacokinetic properties. In general, smaller proteins are cleared from the circulation more rapidly than larger proteins of the same general composition. Thus, full length sc antibodies and native antibodies generally have the longest duration of action, scFab antibodies have shorter durations of action, and scFv antibodies have even shorter durations of action. Of course, depending upon the illness being treated, longer or shorter acting therapeutic agents may

be desired. For example, therapeutic agents for use in the prevention of immune and hemostatic disorders associated with extracorporeal circulation procedures (which are typically of brief duration) are preferably relatively short acting, while antibodies for the treatment of long term chronic conditions (such as inflammatory joint disease or GN) are preferably relatively long acting.

Detailed discussions of antibody engineering may be found in numerous recent publications including: Borrebaek, "Antibody Engineering, A Practical Guide," 1992, W.H. Freeman and Co. NY; and Borrebaek, "Antibody Engineering," 2nd ed. 1995, Oxford University Press, NY, Oxford.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the foregoing, it is an object of the present invention to provide a new approach for reducing the glomerular inflammation and kidney dysfunction associated with GN.

The method of the invention involves the use of preparations containing antibodies to human complement component C5 as pharmaceutical agents. More particularly, the invention provides for the use of anti-C5 antibodies that bind to complement component C5 or active fragments thereof. Preferably, the antibodies block the generation and/or activity of complement components C5a and C5b. For most applications, the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

In the preferred embodiments of the invention, the administration of the anti-C5 antibody preparation is started after the appearance of GN symptoms, e.g., after the appearance of proteinuria. Alternatively, the invention can be used prophylactically to treat patients who are at risk for an acute exacerbation of existing GN, e.g., patients experiencing a flare-up of symptoms of systemic lupus erythematosus or similar autoimmune diseases that have resulted in GN.

As shown in the examples presented below, anti-C5 antibodies administered subsequent to the onset of GN essentially eliminate glomerular inflammation/enlargement and reduce kidney dysfunction (see Examples 1 and 2).

Although not wishing to be bound by any particular theory of operation, it is believed that the anti-C5 antibodies have these and other therapeutic effects through their activity in blocking the generation or activity of the C5a and/or C5b active fragments of complement component C5. Through this blocking effect, the antibodies inhibit the proinflammatory (anaphylatoxic) effects of C5a and the generation of the C5b-9 membrane attack complex (MAC). Significantly, the blockage effected by the anti-C5 antibodies, since it occurs at the level of complement component C5, has the advantage of maintaining important opsonic, anti-infective, and immune complex clearance functions of the complement system mediated by, inter alia, complement component C3.

The invention additionally provides compositions comprising anti-C5 antibodies that block complement hemolytic activity and C5a generation. These antibodies are useful for the treatment of GN as well as a number of other conditions. These include treatment of immune and hemostatic dysfunctions associated with extracorporeal circulation (see copending US patent application Serial No. 08/217,391, now US Patent No. 5,853,722 which is incorporated herein by reference), treatment of inflammatory joint diseases (see copending US patent application Serial No. 08/311,489, which is incorporated herein by reference), and other complement associated conditions, particularly inflammatory diseases.

Although other antibodies can be used to treat GN in accordance with the present invention, the novel antibodies of the invention are preferred. Preferably, these novel antibodies bind to the alpha chain of C5, but do not exhibit substantial binding to the alpha chain cleavage product C5a (referred to hereinafter and in the claims as "free C5a"). Other preferred targets for antibody binding include fragments of the alpha chain of human C5 that are immunoreactive with the most preferred antibody of the invention, the 5G1.1 antibody discussed below. Such preferred targets include the 46 kDa acid hydrolysis fragment of C5 (the "5G46k" fragment), the 27 kDa tryptic digestion fragment of C5 (the "5G27k" fragment), the

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325aa peptide spanning amino acid residues 725-1049 of SEQ ID NO:2 (the "5G325aa" peptide), the 200 amino acid peptide spanning amino acids residues 850 to 1049 of SEQ ID NO:2 (the "5G200aa" peptide) -- as discussed below in Example 13.

The novel antibodies of the invention include antibodies that bind to an epitope within the amino acid sequence Val Ile Asp His Gln Gly Thr Lys Ser Ser Lys Cys Val Arg Gln Lys Val Glu Gly Ser Ser, (SEQ ID NO:1) hereinafter referred to as the KSSKC epitope. These novel antibodies that bind to the KSSKC epitope are hereinafter referred to as anti-KSSKC antibodies, and monoclonal antibodies binding to the KSSKC epitope are hereinafter referred to as anti-KSSKC mAbs.

The novel antibodies of the invention have many advantages over other anti-C5 antibodies, particularly with regard for their use as anti-inflammatory therapeutic agents. These include the ability to substantially block both complement hemolytic activity and the generation of the proinflammatory complement cleavage product C5a to substantially the same extent at the same concentration of antibody. Some of the preferred antibodies of the invention have the additional advantageous property of blocking the binding of C5 to C3 or C4.

Particularly preferred antibodies of the invention are monospecific native anti-KSSKC antibodies. The 5G1.1 native anti-KSSKC mAb has the distinct advantage of substantially blocking both complement hemolytic activity and the generation of C5a at a stoichiometric ratio of antibody to C5 that approaches the theoretical one to two (antibody to antigen) limit of binding that can be achieved by a bivalent antibody. This is a desirable property because it allows smaller doses of antibody to achieve therapeutic effects than would be required of otherwise similar antibodies that cannot function at such a ratio.

The invention further provides recombinant mAbs that are derivatives (including monovalent derivatives) of these native mAbs. These include anti-KSSKC recombinant mAbs. Preferably the antibodies of the invention provide a level of blockade of

both complement hemolytic activity and C5a generation (on a per mole of binding site basis) that is obtained when the antibody concentration is within an order of magnitude of that of the native mAbs. Particularly preferred anti-KSSKC recombinant mAbs provide a level of such blockade when the antibody concentration is no more than three fold that of the native mAbs of the invention.

The invention further provides nucleic acid sequences of polynucleotides encoding such recombinant anti-KSSKC mAbs, as well as amino acid sequences of the polypeptides encoded by these nucleic acid molecules of the invention.

The invention further provides CDR sequences that are useful in the construction of the humanized antibodies of the invention, as well as peptides and oligopeptides that are useful in the preparation and characterization of the antibodies of the invention.

Anti-C5 antibodies of the invention have activity in blocking the generation or activity of the C5a and/or C5b active fragments of complement component C5. Through this blocking effect, the antibodies inhibit the proinflammatory (anaphylatoxic) effects of C5a and the generation of the C5b-9 membrane attack complex (MAC). Significantly, the blockage effected by the anti-C5 antibodies, since it occurs at the level of complement component C5, has the advantage of maintaining important opsonic, anti-infective, and immune complex clearance functions of the complement system mediated by, inter alia, complement component C3.

The accompanying figures, which are incorporated in and constitute part of the specification, illustrate certain aspects of the invention, and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention. It is to be understood, of course, that both the figures and the description are explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1A, 1B, and 1C -- Photomicrographs of PAS stained sections of mouse kidneys. Fig 1A -- uninduced untreated mouse.

Fig. 1B -- GN-induced PBS-(control)-treated mouse. Fig. 1C -- GN-induced anti-C5 treated mouse. Magnification for each is the same, approximately 400X.

Figures 2A, 2B, and 2C -- Photomicrographs of immunofluorescence stained sections of mouse kidneys. Fig 2A -- uninduced untreated mouse. Fig. 2B -- GN-induced PBS-(control)-treated mouse. Fig. 2C -- GN-induced anti-C5 treated mouse. Magnification for each is the same, approximately 200X.

Figure 3 -- Results of hemolytic (cell lysis) assays of serum from GN-induced animals treated with either anti-C5 antibodies in PBS ("Anti-C5") or PBS alone ("PBS control"). Also shown are the results of assays performed with normal serum.

Figure 4 -- Results of soluble C5b-9 ("sC5b-9") assays. "ND" indicates not determined.

Figures 5A, 5B, and 5C -- Immunofluorescence photomicrographs of kidney sections stained for mouse C3. Fig 5A -- uninduced untreated mouse. Fig. 5B -- GN-induced PBS-(control)-treated mouse. Fig. 5C -- GN-induced anti-C5 treated mouse. Magnification for each is the same, approximately 400X.

Figure 6 -- Results of C3a assays of samples of circulating human blood. "ND" indicates not determined.

Figures 7A and 7B -- Pharmacokinetic analyses of the reduction of the cell lysis ability of mouse (Fig. 7A) or human (Fig. 7B) blood after treatment with anti-C5 antibodies.

The immunofluorescent staining of Figures 2 and 5 is confined to the glomerular capillary network (tuft) and thus the enlargement of the glomerulus seen in Figure 1B is not visible in Figures 2B and 5B.

Figure 8 -- Scatchard analysis of native 5G1.1 binding to C5.

Figure 9 -- Scatchard analysis of native N19/8 binding to C5.

Figure 10 -- C3a generation in samples of circulating human blood in the presence of native 5G1.1.

Figure 11 -- sC5b-9 generation in samples of circulating

human blood in the presence of native 5G1.1.

Figure 12 -- Serum hemolytic activity of samples of circulating human blood in the presence of native 5G1.1.

Figure 13 -- Serum hemolytic activity in the presence of m5G1.1 scFv.

Figure 14 -- C5a generation in the presence of m5G1.1 scFv.

Figure 15 -- C3a generation in samples of circulating human blood in the presence of m5G1.1 scFv.

Figure 16 -- Serum hemolytic activity of samples of circulating human blood in the presence of 5G1.1 scFv.

Figure 17 -- sC5b-9 generation in samples of circulating human blood in the presence of m5G1.1 scFv.

Figure 18 -- The light chain variable region of the antibody 5G1.1. Sequence derived from the 5' oligonucleotide primer used for PCR amplification of the variable region is shown in lower case. Amino acids are number according to Kabat et al., *supra*. Boxed amino acids correspond to peptide sequences obtained from the mature 5G1.1 light chain or from an endoproteinase Lys C peptide of 5G1.1. The complementarity determining region (CDR) residues according to the sequence variability definition and the structural variability definition are underlined and overlined, respectively.

Figure 19 -- The heavy chain variable region of the antibody 5G1.1. Sequence derived from the 5' oligonucleotide primer used for PCR amplification of the variable region is shown in lower case. Amino acids are numbered using the scheme of Kabat et al. *supra* with +1 denoting the first amino acid of the processed mature variable region. Boxed amino acids correspond to peptide sequence obtained from the 5G1.1 heavy chain after treatment with pyroglutamate aminopeptidase. The complementarity determining region (CDR) residues according to the sequence variability definition or according to the structural variability definition are underlined and overlined, respectively.

BACKGROUND PHYSIOLOGY & PATHOLOGY

The discussion in this section is not limited to subject matter that qualifies as "prior art" against the present invention. Therefore, no admission of such prior art status shall be implied or inferred by reason of inclusion of particular subject matter in this discussion, and no declaration against the present inventors' interests shall be implied by reason of such inclusion.

I. Introduction

As described above, the present invention relates to therapeutic treatments for GN and other immune complex mediated diseases, as well as to the treatment of other complement mediated diseases and to the inhibition of complement component C5. To provide background for the description of the preferred embodiments and the examples presented below, we turn first to general discussions of the complement arm of the immune system, the pathophysiologic features of GN, and previous studies of the role of complement in GN pathogenesis.

General discussions of the complement system and GN can be found in, for example, Glassock and Brenner, 1994; Couser, 1993; Couser, 1992; Couser, et al, 1992; Rich, 1992; Glassock and Brenner, 1987; Robbins and Cotran, 1979; and Guyton, 1971.

II. The Complement System

The complement system acts in conjunction with other immunological systems of the body to defend against intrusion of cellular and viral pathogens. There are at least 25 complement proteins, which are found as a complex collection of plasma proteins and membrane cofactors. The plasma proteins make up about 10% of the globulins in vertebrate serum. Complement components achieve their immune defensive functions by interacting in a series of intricate but precise enzymatic cleavage and membrane binding events. The resulting complement cascade leads to the production of products with opsonic, immunoregulatory, and lytic functions.

The complement cascade progresses via the classical pathway or the alternative pathway. These pathways share many components, and while they differ in their initial steps, they

converge and share the same "terminal complement" components (C5 through C9) responsible for the activation and destruction of target cells.

The classical complement pathway is typically initiated by antibody recognition of and binding to an antigenic site on a target cell. The alternative pathway is usually antibody independent, and can be initiated by certain molecules on pathogen surfaces. Both pathways converge at the point where complement component C3 is cleaved by an active protease (which is different in each pathway) to yield C3a and C3b. Other pathways activating complement attack can act later in the sequence of events leading to various aspects of complement function.

C3a is an anaphylatoxin (see discussion below). C3b binds to bacterial and other cells, as well as to certain viruses and immune complexes, and tags them for removal from the circulation. (C3b in this role is known as opsonin.) The opsonic function of C3b is considered to be the most important anti-infective action of the complement system. Patients with genetic lesions that block C3b function are prone to infection by a broad variety of pathogenic organisms, while patients with lesions later in the complement cascade sequence, i.e., patients with lesions that block C5 functions, are found to be more prone only to Neisseria infection, and then only somewhat more prone (Fearon, in Intensive Review of Internal Medicine, 2nd Ed. Fanta and Minaker, eds. Brigham and Women's and Beth Israel Hospitals, 1983).

C3b also forms a complex with other components unique to each pathway to form classical or alternative C5 convertase, which cleaves C5 into C5a and C5b. C3 is thus regarded as the central protein in the complement reaction sequence since it is essential to both the alternative and classical pathways (Wurzner, et al., Complement Inflamm. 8:328-340, 1991). This property of C3b is regulated by the serum protease Factor I, which acts on C3b to produce iC3b. While still functional as opsonin, iC3b cannot form an active C5 convertase.

C5 is a 190 kDa beta globulin found in normal serum at approximately 75µg/ml (0.4µM). C5 is glycosylated, with about 1.5-3 percent of its mass attributed to carbohydrate. Mature C5 is a heterodimer of a 999 amino acid 115 kDa alpha chain that is disulfide linked to a 656 amino acid 75 kDa beta chain. C5 is synthesized as a single chain precursor protein product of a single copy gene (Haviland et al. J. Immunol. 1991, 146:362-368). The cDNA sequence of the transcript of this gene predicts a secreted pro-C5 precursor of 1659 amino acids along with an 18 amino acid leader sequence (SEQ ID NO:2).

The pro-C5 precursor is cleaved after amino acid 655 and 659, to yield the beta chain as an amino terminal fragment (amino acid residues +1 to 655 of SEQ ID NO:2) and the alpha chain as a carboxyl terminal fragment (amino acid residues 660 to 1658 of SEQ ID NO:2), with four amino acids (amino acid residues 656-659 of SEQ ID NO:2) deleted between the two.

C5a is cleaved from the alpha chain of C5 by either alternative or classical C5 convertase as an amino terminal fragment comprising the first 74 amino acids of the alpha chain (i.e., amino acid residues 660-733 of SEQ ID NO:2). Approximately 20 percent of the 11 kDa mass of C5a is attributed to carbohydrate. The cleavage site for convertase action is at or immediately adjacent to amino acid residue 733 of SEQ ID NO:2. A compound that would bind at or adjacent to this cleavage site would have the potential to block access of the C5 convertase enzymes to the cleavage site and thereby act as a complement inhibitor.

C5 can also be activated by means other than C5 convertase activity. Limited trypsin digestion (Minta and Man, J. Immunol. 1977, 119:1597-1602; Wetsel and Kolb, J. Immunol. 1982, 128:2209-2216) and acid treatment (Yammamoto and Gewurz, J. Immunol. 1978, 120:2008; Damerau et al., Molec. Immunol. 1989, 26:1133-1142) can also cleave C5 and produce active C5b.

C5a is another anaphylatoxin (see discussion below). C5b combines with C6, C7, and C8 to form the C5b-8 complex at the surface of the target cell. Upon binding of several C9

molecules, the membrane attack complex (MAC, C5b-9, terminal complement complex -- TCC) is formed. When sufficient numbers of MACs insert into target cell membranes the openings they create (MAC pores) mediate rapid osmotic lysis of the target cells. Lower, non-lytic concentrations of MACs can produce other effects. In particular, membrane insertion of small numbers of the C5b-9 complexes into endothelial cells and platelets can cause deleterious cell activation. In some cases activation may precede cell lysis.

As mentioned above, C3a and C5a are anaphylatoxins. These activated complement components can trigger mast cell degranulation, which releases histamine and other mediators of inflammation, resulting in smooth muscle contraction, increased vascular permeability, leukocyte activation, and other inflammatory phenomena including cellular proliferation resulting in hypercellularity. C5a also functions as a chemotactic peptide that serves to attract pro-inflammatory granulocytes to the site of complement activation.

III. Pathophysiology of GN

Although GN may accompany an extraordinary range of pathologic processes, in general it is encountered most commonly in the course of infectious diseases, in autoimmunity, and as a consequence of therapy for some other disease process. The causative mechanism for GN is typically the deposit of circulating immune complexes in the kidney. Factors involved in the pathogenesis of GN include the specific antigen and antibody involved and the inflammatory processes that occur as a consequence of immune complex deposition.

Antigens Involved in the Formation of Immune Complexes That Cause GN: Antigens involved in the development of GN can be broadly classified as endogenous, infectious, and iatrogenic (those encountered as a consequence of medical practice). In many cases the specific antigen is unknown, although the general class can usually be identified.

The best known example of the formation of endogenous immune complexes is the DNA anti-DNA complexes produced in connection

with systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus, SLE). Other important sources of endogenous antigens include malignancies in which immune complex formation may contribute to the development of paraneoplastic syndromes.

Infections with organisms of many types, particularly chronic infections, are also associated with the development of immune complexes that can cause GN. Bacterial and fungal infections that can produce such complexes include infection with certain strains of streptococci, Pseudomonas, disseminated gonococcal infection, lepromatous leprosy, subacute bacterial endocarditis, bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, secondary syphilis, and chronic infections in patients with cystic fibrosis.

Viral diseases in which immune complex deposition may be a prominent feature include hepatitis B infection, dengue, infectious mononucleosis, and subacute sclerosing panencephalitis. GN is also a prominent feature of many parasitic infestations such as the GN seen in children with quartan malaria, as well as toxoplasmosis, trypanosomiasis, and schistosomiasis.

Iatrogenic antigens constitute a special class of exogenous antigens. These include those responsible for the prototype immune complex disease, serum sickness, which follows formation of immune complexes between heterologous serum constituents and autologous antibodies. Serum sickness was regularly seen earlier in this century when infectious diseases were frequently treated with heterologous antisera.

An iatrogenic disease essentially indistinguishable from classic serum sickness can occur as a consequence of high-dose antibiotic therapy. The serum sickness-like manifestations of immune responses to these drugs include GN and reflect the fact that certain drugs, particularly the ß-lactam and sulfonamide antibiotics, are effective haptens that are capable of inducing antibody responses upon spontaneous conjugation to autologous proteins.

Factors Affecting Immune Complex Formation and Deposition:

Features of both antigen and antibody determine the likelihood of pathologic immune complex formation and subsequent deposition in the kidney. Chief among these are the absolute concentrations of the reactants and their relative molar ratios.

Most antigens display multiple epitopes and typically stimulate a polyclonal antibody response. All naturally occurring antibody molecules are at least bivalent. These properties allow for the formation of an extensive antigen-antibody lattice, the size of which is determined largely by the affinity of the antibodies and the molar ratio of antigen to antibody.

In general, antibody responses begin under conditions in which antigen is present in excess to antibody, and this relative ratio changes as the antibody response increases in magnitude. Complexes formed initially are usually small and exhibit little or no pathogenic activity. In contrast, very large complexes are often formed as the amount of antigen becomes limiting, late in the course of an antibody response under conditions of antibody excess. Because these very large complexes are readily cleared by the reticuloendothelial system in the liver, they are also relatively nonpathogenic.

The formation of immune complexes that can cause GN is believed to occur during conditions of slight antigen excess or near the point of antibody-antigen equivalence, where lattice formation is maximal and lattice size is large, but not very large.

Several factors influence the speed and location of immune complex precipitation. Interactions between Fc regions of antibody molecules promote rapid precipitation of immune complexes. The role of Fc-Fc interactions in immune complex precipitation is illustrated by studies of the properties of F(ab')2 antibody fragments, which do not contain Fc regions. Although the valence of F(ab')2 fragments does not differ from that of most whole immunoglobulins, F(ab')2 antibody fragments form lattices more slowly.

Antigen charge plays a role in determining the tissue

localization of sites of deposition of immune complex precipitates. Complexes with a substantial positive charge are preferentially attracted to the strong negative charge of basement membranes, particularly in the renal glomerulus.

Localized presence of antigen may largely account for certain cases of organ specific immune complex deposition. Diseases such as Goodpasture's syndrome (a rare form of GN) are typically not classified as immune complex diseases because the complexes are formed in situ in the kidney rather than being preformed in the circulation and then deposited. Once the immune complexes are formed, the subsequent inflammatory process is believed to be essentially the same as that seen following deposition of preformed complexes. However, the different mode of deposition distinguishes this syndrome from typical GN caused by circulating immune complexes.

Features of blood flow and vascular structure are also important in determining the localization of immune complex deposits. Chief among these is capillary permeability. Because their capillary endothelium is fenestrated, renal glomeruli are preferential sites for the deposition of immune complexes. Hemodynamic variables enhancing immune complex localization include turbulence of flow and increased blood pressure, both of which are present in the renal glomeruli.

Complement and Complement Receptors as Regulators of Immune Complex Deposition: In addition to their proinflammatory functions, complement components can also inhibit immune complex deposition and resolubilize immune complex precipitates from sites of deposition. In addition, it is known that erythrocyte receptors for C3b, e.g., CR1, are important for reticuloendothelial clearance of opsonized circulating immune complexes.

Analysis of the clinical pattern of immune complex disease in patients with deficiencies of particular complement components provides information regarding the normal role of these components in the prevention of complex deposition. The incidence of immune complex disease in patients with

deficiencies of Clq, Clr, Cls, C4, C2, or C3 varies from 60 to 90 percent, with the majority of these patients exhibiting a lupus-like syndrome. Immune complex disease is rarely associated with deficiencies of late-acting or alternative pathway components.

The binding of complement components to immune complexes prevents the formation of large antigen-antibody lattices and inhibits immune precipitation. This process requires activation via the classical pathway; serum that is deficient for Clq, C4, or C2 does not effectively inhibit lattice formation and complex precipitation. Classical pathway dependence may reflect the initial binding of C1 components, impeding the Fc-Fc interactions between IgG molecules that contribute to immune precipitation. This is followed by covalent binding of C3b to the complexes, which further inhibits immune precipitation and leads to solubilization of previously deposited complexes.

The solubilization process also depends upon activation of components of the alternative pathway. Consequently, by promoting clearance of immune complexes and inhibiting their deposition at sites of inflammation, complement components and their receptors serve as negative regulators of immune complex diseases that may retard disease development.

It should be noted that the present invention involves blocking the activities of complement component C5. The targeting of this component does not alter the functions of the early complement components, and thus does not compromise the negative regulatory effects on immune complex deposition of those early components.

Immune Complex-Mediated Inflammation: Basophils are important in the initiation of immune complex-mediated inflammatory responses, as capillary permeability is markedly increased by the action of vasoactive amines such as histamine and platelet-activating factor, which are released by these cells. Vascular permeability is also promoted by aggregation of platelets at sites of an inflammatory lesion, with the release of platelet-activating factor and the formation of microthrombi.

Basophil degranulation may reflect the effects of IgE antibodies, as well as the elaboration of the anaphylatoxin components of complement, C3a and C5a.

In addition to basophils and platelets, the primary cellular effectors of immune complex-mediated inflammation are polymorphonuclear leukocytes, monocytes, and macrophages.

IV. Previous Studies of the Role of Complement in GN Pathogenesis

Extensive work has been performed in an attempt to understand the possible role of complement in the development of GN. This work has included studies of GN using a number of animal models by, among others, Unanue, et al., (1964); Cochrane, et al., (1965); Kniker, et al., (1965); Salant, et al., (1980); Groggel, et al., (1983); Falk and Jennette (1986); Jennette, et al., (1987); Passwell, et al., (1988); Schrijver, et al., (1988); Baker, et al., (1989); Schrijver, et al., (1990); Couser, et al., (1991); and Couser, et al., (1992).

These studies have shown that complement plays a role in GN pathogenesis. However, they have not established specific unequivocal roles for the various complement components. In particular, the relative roles of C3 and other anaphylatoxins compared to the roles of the terminal complement components in GN pathogenesis have not been unequivocally established. Also, some researchers have reported that complement depletion does not diminish glomerular injury. See Kniker, et al., (1965).

The foregoing work includes that of Falk and Jennette (1986), who reported results of experiments in which attempts were made to induce GN in mice having a genetic defect that resulted in a deficiency of complement component C5. The report concludes that C5 or some terminal complement component dependent on C5 plays a role in the pathogenesis of GN.

Significantly, with regard to the present invention, Falk and Jennette in no way disclose or suggest that an antibody to C5 can be used to treat GN. Indeed, it would be counterintuitive to use an antibody to treat disease which typically involves the formation and deposition of circulating antibody-antigen immune complexes. Plainly, the creation of more circulating immune complexes would seem to be the last way to go to solve a problem that can be caused by circulating immune complexes. Yet, as demonstrated by the surprising results presented below, anti-C5 antibodies have been found to effectively block GN, even though the creation of additional circulating immune complexes is inherent in their mode of action.

Baker et al. (1989), Couser et al. (1991), and Couser et al. (1992) (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "C6" work) discuss experiments in which high levels of an anti-C6 polyclonal antibody preparation were administered to rats, following which immune complexes were formed <u>in situ</u> in the rats' kidneys. Significantly, with regard to the present invention, the anti-C6 antibody preparation was not administered to animals with pre-existing kidney disease, i.e., it was not used as a therapeutic treatment. Moreover, the experimental

protocol used in the C6 experiments did not involve circulating immune complexes, but rather involved complexes formed in situ. Accordingly, the experiments did not disclose or suggest the counterintuitive approach of the present invention wherein more circulating immune complexes are formed in the process of treating a disease state caused by circulating immune complexes.

Further, the anti-C6 antibody dosages used in the C6 work were too high for practical medical use. Specifically, these antibodies were used at a dosage of 1 gm/kg, a dosage which would correspond to 70 gm of antibody for a 70 kg (155 lb) individual. In contrast, the anti-C5 antibodies used in the practice of the present invention are used at concentrations at or below 0.1 gm/kg, i.e., a factor of at least ten times less than used in the C6 work. Indeed, as shown by the examples presented below, anti-C5 antibody dosages as low as 0.03 gm/kg, i.e., 33 times less than those used in the C6 work, have been found to achieve the therapeutic effects of the invention in treating GN. For a 70 kg individual, this antibody level corresponds to a dose of just 2.1 gms.

The novel anti-KSSKC antibodies of the invention allow the use of even lower dosage levels to treat GN and other inflammatory conditions. Based upon their level of activity in human blood, they are expected to provide complete complement inhibition at dosages below 0.005g/kg, and to provide therapeutically effective complement inhibition at dosages below 0.003g/kg. This 3mg/kg dosage is one tenth the dosage discussed below in Examples 4 and 5 for the for the anti-C5 (beta chain specific) mAb N19/8. Some of the full length anti-KSSKC mabs of the invention will provide therapeutic benefits even at dosages below 0.0022g/kg. This is the minimum dose providing complete complement inhibition as calculated from the data obtained using the anti-KSSKC 5G1.1 mAb in human blood in a CPB circuit, as discussed below in Example 9.

Accordingly, dosages of less than 0.005g/kg are preferred, with dosages of below 0.003g/kg being more preferred, and dosages below 0.0022g/kg being particularly preferred. For a 70

kg individual, these antibody dosage levels correspond to a dose of less than 0.35 gms for the highest dosage of the preferred dosages, less than 0.21 gms for the more preferred dosage, and less than or equal to 0.15 gms for the most preferred dosage.

Of course, dosage levels of single chain and other recombinant mAbs of the invention must be adjusted according to their level of activity (e.g., their binding affinity, their ability to block C5 activation, and/or their ability to block complement hemolytic activity), their valency, and their molecular weight. For example, the humanized scFv anti-KSSKC mAbs of Example 11 are approximately 27 kDa, about one sixth the approximately 155 kDa mass of a native, full length IgG antibody. These antibodies completely block complement hemolytic activity and C5a generation at a ratio of 3:1, six fold greater than for native 5G1.1 (but only three fold greater when viewed in terms of numbers of antibody-antigen binding sites).

Thus, the number of molecules of each of these scFvs required to equal the effect of a single molecule of native 5G1.1 must be increased by a factor of six to adjust for the ratio at which blocking is complete. Since the mass of these molecules is approximately one sixth of the mass of native 5G1.1, dosages of the scFvs are in the same range as those for the native 5G1.1 mAb.

In addition to lowering dosage levels, the anti-C5 antibodies used in the practice of the present invention (i.e., in treating GN) achieve important therapeutic effects not achieved with the anti-C6 antibodies. Specifically, the control and test animals in the C6 work exhibited both hypercellularity and narrowing of capillary lumens. In direct contrast, no such hypercellularity or narrowing of capillary lumens was seen when diseased individuals were treated with anti-C5 antibodies (see Figure 1).

Moreover, the anti-C5 antibodies used in the present invention achieve a reduction in glomerular enlargement, thus providing a clear demonstration of the unexpectedly powerful

anti-inflammatory effects of the anti-C5 antibodies used in the practice of the invention. Nowhere in the C6 work is there any disclosure or suggestion of such a powerful anti-inflammatory effect.

V. Anti-C5 Monoclonal Antibodies That Block Complement Hemolytic Activity and Block the Generation of C5a:

Anti-C5 mAbs that have the desirable ability to block complement hemolytic activity and to block the generation of C5a (and are thus preferred for use in the treatment of GN and other inflammatory conditions in accordance with the present invention) have been known in the art since at least 1982 (Moongkarndi et al. Immunobiol. 1982, 162:397; Moongkarndi et al. Immunobiol. 1983, 165:323). Antibodies known in the art that are immunoreactive against C5 or C5 fragments include antibodies against the C5 beta chain (Moongkarndi et al. Immunobiol. 1982, 162:397; Moongkarndi et al. Immunobiol. 1983, 165:323; Wurzner et al. 1991, *supra*; Mollnes et al. Scand. J. Immunol. 1988, 28:307-312); C5a (see for example, Ames et al. J. Immunol. 1994, 152:4572-4581, U.S. patent No. 4,686,100, and European patent publication No. 0 411 306); and antibodies against non-human C5 (see for example, Giclas et al. J. Immunol. Meth. 1987, 105:201-209). Significantly, none of these anti-C5 mAbs has the properties of the novel anti-C5 mAbs of the invention, i.e., none of them binds to the C5 alpha chain but not to the C5 cleavage product C5a, none of them has the ability to substantially block both complement hemolytic activity and the generation of C5a to substantially the same extent at the same concentration of antibody. It is noteworthy that an scFv derivative of the N19/8 antibody of Wurzner et al. 1991, *supra*, has been prepared, and that the N19/8 scFv has 50% less inhibitory activity towards C5a generation than the native N19/8 antibody (see Example 15). This is in contrast to the 5G1.1 scFv, which retained substantially all of its inhibitory activity towards C5a generation (see Example 12).

While not wishing to be bound by any particular theory of operation, it is believed that these distinctions are due to the

specific binding characteristics of the antibodies of the invention. Accordingly, antibodies that do not bind to sites within the alpha chain of C5, and antibodies that bind to the C5 cleavage product C5a (free C5a), are believed to lack the ability to substantially block both complement hemolytic activity and the generation of C5a to substantially the same extent at the same concentration of antibody.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

As discussed above, the present invention relates to the use of anti-C5 antibodies in treating patients suffering from GN and other diseases, and to specific C5 antibodies and antibody preparations. Preferably, and when used to treat GN, the anti-C5 antibodies are used in an amount effective to substantially reduce (e.g., reduce by at least about 50%) the cell-lysing ability of complement present in the patient's blood (the "cell-lysing ability of complement present in the patient's blood" is also referred to herein as the "serum complement activity of the patient's blood"). Reduction of the cell-lysing ability of complement present in the patient's blood can be measured by methods well known in the art such as, for example, by the chicken erythrocyte hemolysis method described below under the heading "Cell Lysis Assays."

To achieve the desired reductions, the anti-C5 antibodies can be administered in a variety of unit dosage forms. The dose will vary according to the particular antibody. For example, different antibodies may have different masses and/or affinities, and thus require different dosage levels. Antibodies prepared as Fab' fragments will also require differing dosages than the equivalent intact immunoglobulins, as they are of considerably smaller mass than intact immunoglobulins, and thus require lower dosages to reach the same molar levels in the patient's blood.

The dose will also vary depending on the manner of administration, the particular symptoms of the patient being treated, the overall health, condition, size, and age of the patient, and the judgment of the prescribing physician. Dosage

levels of the antibodies for human subjects are generally between about 1 mg per kg and about 100 mg per kg per patient per treatment, and preferably between about 5 mg per kg and about 50 mg per kg per patient per treatment. In terms of plasma concentrations, the antibody concentrations are preferably in the range from about 25 µg/ml to about 500 µg/ml.

Subject to the judgement of the physician, a typical therapeutic treatment includes a series of doses, which will usually be administered concurrently with the monitoring of clinical endpoints such as BUN levels, proteinuria levels, etc., with the dosage levels adjusted as needed to achieve the desired clinical outcome. Alternatively, levels of serum complement activity available in the patient's blood are monitored using the techniques set forth below under the heading "Cell Lysis Assays" to determine if additional doses or higher or lower dosage levels of antibodies are needed, with such doses being administered as required to maintain at least about a 50% reduction, and preferably about a 95% or greater reduction of serum complement activity. Other protocols can, of course, be used if desired as determined by the physician.

Administration of the anti-C5 antibodies will generally be performed by an intravascular route, e.g., via intravenous infusion by injection. Other routes of administration may be used if desired. Formulations suitable for injection are found in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Company, Philadelphia, PA, 17th ed. (1985). Such formulations must be sterile and non-pyrogenic, and generally will include a pharmaceutically effective carrier, such as saline, buffered (e.g., phosphate buffered) saline, Hank's solution, Ringer's solution, dextrose/saline, glucose solutions, and the like. The formulations may contain pharmaceutically acceptable auxiliary substances as required, such as, tonicity adjusting agents, wetting agents, bactericidal agents, preservatives, stabilizers, and the like.

The formulations of the invention can be distributed as articles of manufacture comprising packaging material and the

anti-C5 antibodies. When prepared for use in the treatment of GN, the packaging material will include a label which indicates that the formulation is for use in the treatment of kidney disease and may specifically refer to nephritis or glomerulonephritis.

The anti-C5 antibody is preferably a monoclonal antibody, although polyclonal antibodies produced and screened by conventional techniques can also be used if desired. As discussed above, the anti-C5 antibodies must be effective in reducing the cell-lysing ability of complement present in human blood. As also discussed above, this property of the antibodies can be determined by methods well known in the art such as, for example, by the chicken erythrocyte hemolysis method described below under the heading "Cell Lysis Assays".

The anti-C5 antibodies used in the practice of the invention bind to C5 or fragments thereof, e.g., C5a or C5b. Preferably, the anti-C5 antibodies are immunoreactive against epitopes on the beta chain of purified human complement component C5 and are capable of blocking the conversion of C5 into C5a and C5b by C5 convertase. This capability can be measured using the techniques described in Wurzner, et al., Complement Inflamm 8:328-340, 1991. Preferably, the anti-C5 antibodies are used to treat GN in an amount effective to reduce the C5 convertase activity available in the patient's blood by at least about 50%.

In a particularly preferred embodiment of the invention, the anti-C5 antibodies are not immunoreactive against epitopes on the beta chain, but rather are immunoreactive against epitopes within the alpha chain of purified human complement component C5. In this embodiment the antibodies are also capable of blocking the conversion of C5 into C5a and C5b by C5 convertase. In an especially preferred example of this embodiment they can provide this blockade at substantially the same concentrations needed to block hemolytic activity.

Within the alpha chain, the most preferred antibodies bind to an amino-terminal region, however, they do not bind to free C5a. Particularly preferred targets for these antibodies within

the alpha chain include the 5G46k fragment, the 5G27k fragment, the 5G325aa peptide, the 5G200aa peptide, or the KSSKC epitope. The scope of the invention also includes the 5G46k fragment, the 5G27k fragment, the 5G325aa peptide, the 5G200aa peptide, or the KSSKC epitope (SEQ ID NO: 1) that are useful as immunogens and screening ligands for producing the antibodies of the invention.

Hybridomas producing monoclonal antibodies reactive with complement component C5 can be obtained according to the teachings of Sims, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,135,916. As discussed therein, antibodies are prepared using purified components of the complement membrane attack complex as immunogens. In accordance with the present invention, complement component C5 or C5b is preferably used as the immunogen. In accordance with a particularly preferred aspect of the present invention, the immunogen is the alpha chain of C5. Within the alpha chain, the most preferred immunogens include the 5G46k fragment, the 5G27k fragment, the 5G325aa peptide, or the 5G200aa peptide. A less preferred immunogen is the KSSKC epitope.

In accordance with the invention, the antibodies of the invention all share certain required functional properties. These are the ability to substantially inhibit complement hemolytic activity and to substantially inhibit the conversion of C5 to produce C5a. Preferably, but not requisitely, they provide these functions when used at a molar ratio of antibody to antigen (C5) of 3:1 or less.

A particularly preferred antibody of the invention is the 5G1.1 antibody (5G1.1, produced by the 5G1.1 hybridoma, ATCC designation HB-11625). Other particularly preferred antibodies of the present invention share the required functional properties discussed in the preceding paragraph and have any of the following characteristics:

(1) they compete with 5G1.1 for binding to portions of C5 -- the C5 alpha chain, the 5G46k fragment, the 5G27k fragment, the 5G325aa peptide (SEQ ID NO: 1), the 5G200aa" peptide, or the KSSKC peptide -- that are specifically immunoreactive with 5G1.1; and

(2) they specifically bind to the C5 alpha chain, the 5G46k fragment, the 5G27k fragment, the 5G325aa peptide, the 5G200aa" peptide, and/or the KSSKC peptide (SEQ ID NO:1). Such specific binding, and competition for binding can be determined by various methods well known in the art, including the plasmon surface resonance method (Johne et al., J. Immunol. Meth. 1993, 160:191-198).

(3) they block the binding of C5 to either C3 or C4 (which are components of C5 convertase).

Also in accordance with the invention, the antibodies preferably should prevent the cleavage of C5 to form C5a and C5b, thus preventing the generation of the anaphylatoxic activity associated with C5a and preventing the assembly of the membrane attack complex associated with C5b. In a particularly preferred embodiment, these anti-C5 antibodies will not impair the opsonization function associated with the activation of complement component C3 by a C3 convertase. Plasma C3 convertase activity can be measured by assaying plasma for the presence of C3a as described below under the heading "Histology." Preferably, the anti-C5 antibody produces essentially no reduction in plasma C3a levels.

General methods for the immunization of animals (in this case with C5 or C5b or another preferred immunogen), isolation of polyclonal antibodies or antibody producing cells, fusion of such cells with immortal cells (e.g., myeloma cells) to generate Hybridomas secreting monoclonal antibodies, screening of hybridoma supernatants for reactivity of secreted monoclonal antibodies with a desired antigen (in this case C5 or C5b or another preferred immunogen), the preparation of quantities of such antibodies in hybridoma supernatants or ascites fluids, and for the purification and storage of such monoclonal antibodies, can be found in numerous publications. These include: Coligan, et al., eds. Current Protocols In Immunology, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1992; Harlow and Lane, Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York, 1988; Liddell and Cryer, A Practical Guide To Monoclonal Antibodies, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, West Sussex, England, 1991; Montz, et

al., Cellular Immunol. 127:337-351, 1990; Wurzner, et al., Complement Inflamm. 8:328-340, 1991; and Mollnes, et al., Scand. J. Immunol. 28:307-312, 1988.

As used herein, the term "antibodies" refers to immunoglobulins produced in vivo, as well as those produced in vitro by a hybridoma, and antigen binding fragments (e.g., Fab' preparations) of such immunoglobulins, as well as to recombinantly expressed antigen binding proteins, including immunoglobulins, chimeric immunoglobulins, "humanized" immunoglobulins, antigen binding fragments of such immunoglobulins, single chain antibodies, and other recombinant proteins containing antigen binding domains derived from immunoglobulins. As used herein,"antibodies" also refers to antigen binding synthetic peptides comprising sequences derived from the sequences of immunoglobulin antigen binding domains. As used herein, the term "recombinant mAbs" refers to recombinantly expressed antigen binding proteins. As used herein, the term "antibody-antigen binding site" refers to an antigen binding site of an antibody comprising at least one CDR sequence.

Antibodies whose amino acid sequences are full length immunoglobulin sequences that have not been truncated (e.g., to produce an scFv or an Fab) or mutated (e.g., spliced to form a chimeric antibody or humanized) are referred to herein as "native" antibodies. Publications describing methods for the preparation of such antibodies, in addition to those listed immediately above, include: Reichmann, et al., Nature, 332:323-327, 1988; Winter and Milstein, Nature, 349:293-299, 1991; Clackson, et al., Nature, 352:624-628, 1991; Morrison, Annu Rev Immunol, 10:239-265, 1992; Haber, Immunol Rev, 130:189-212, 1992; and Rodrigues, et al., J Immunol, 151:6954-6961, 1993.

While treatment of GN in accordance with the process of the present invention may be carried out using polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies, monospecific antibodies are preferred. As used herein "monospecific antibodies" refer to antibodies that bind to a specific region of a particular antigen. All

monoclonal antibodies are monospecific, but polyclonal antibodies are typically not monospecific.

As is known in the art, however, monospecific polyclonal antibodies may be prepared by various methods. For example, a peptide (e.g., an oligopeptide -- as used hereinafter and in the claims, a polymer of 5 to 200 amino acids) may be used as an immunogen. Another procedure allowing the preparation of monospecific polyclonal antibodies is the use of antigen affinity purification techniques to isolate a monospecific antibody population from a polyclonal antibody mixture. In accordance with the present invention, peptides are preferred as immunogens for the production and as affinity ligands for the purification of monospecific polyclonal anti-KSSKC antibodies.

The native (i.e., non-engineered) monoclonal antibodies of the invention are preferably prepared by conventional means, with the 5G46k fragment, the 5G27k fragment, the 5G200aa peptide, the 5G325aa peptide, and/or the KSSKC peptide (SEQ ID NO:1) (e.g., immobilized on a polypropylene membrane as described below in Example 13) being used as screening ligand(s). This involves testing hybridoma supernatants for binding to each screening ligand.

In one preferred embodiment, the native mAbs of the invention are prepared using the alpha chain of human C5, or fragments thereof, as immunogen. Preferred fragments of the alpha chain of human C5 for this purpose include the 5G46k fragment, the 5G27k fragment, and/or the 5G200aa fragment. Although less preferred, the KSSKC peptide (SEQ ID NO:1) may also be used as an immunogen.

Another (albeit less preferred) immunogen and screening ligand for the preparation of antibodies within the scope of the novel antibodies of the present invention is the "cleavage site peptide," i.e., the peptide spanning amino acids 725 through 754 of SEQ ID NO:2 (the C5a cleavage site), as discussed below in Example 13.

In another preferred embodiment of the invention, the native mAbs of the invention are prepared in transgenic mice expressing

human immunoglobulins (see, for example, Green et al., Nature Genet. 1994, 7:13-21). In this case, the same preferred immunogens and screening ligands are used as described for the preparation of other native mAbs.

In another preferred embodiment of the invention, the recombinant mAbs of the invention are prepared by screening phage display libraries expressing recombinant mAb-encoding polynucleotides (preferably encoding human recombinant mAbs). See, for example, Ames et al., 1994, *supra*; Smith and Scott, Meth. Enzymol. 1993, 217:228; Kay et al., Gene, 1993, 128:59-65. This screening is carried out with the screening ligands described above for the preparation of native mAbs. The recombinant mAbs of the invention are prepared by subcloning the recombinant mAb-encoding polynucleotides into a suitable expression vector, expressing them in a suitable host (as described below), and isolating the recombinant mAbs.

The present invention provides recombinant expression vectors which include the synthetic, genomic, or cDNA-derived nucleic acid fragments of the invention, i.e. polynucleotides encoding the mAbs of the invention. The nucleotide sequence coding for any of the mAbs of the invention can be inserted into an appropriate expression vector, i.e., a vector that contains the necessary elements for the transcription and translation of the inserted protein-coding sequence. The necessary transcriptional and translational signals can also be supplied by the native or source gene and/or its flanking regions.

A variety of host vector systems may be utilized to express the recombinant expression vectors of the invention. These include, but are not limited to, mammalian cell systems infected with recombinant virus (e.g., vaccinia virus, adenovirus, retroviruses, etc.); mammalian cell systems transfected with recombinant plasmids; insect cell systems infected with recombinant virus (e.g., baculovirus); microorganisms such as yeast containing yeast expression vectors, or bacteria transformed with recombinant bacteriophage DNA, recombinant plasmid DNA, or cosmid DNA (see, for example, Goeddel, 1990).

Sub M3

Useful expression vectors for bacterial use can comprise a selectable marker and bacterial origin of replication derived from commercially available plasmids comprising genetic elements of the well-known cloning vector pBR322 (American Type Culture Collection -"ATCC"-, 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852, United States of America; ATCC Accession No. 37017). These pBR322 "backbone sections," or functionally equivalent sequences, are combined with an appropriate promoter and the structural gene to be expressed. Promoters commonly used in recombinant microbial expression vectors include, but are not limited to, the lactose promoter system (Chang, et al., Nature 275:615), the tryptophan (trp) promoter (Goeddel, et al., 1980, Gene Expression Technology, Volume 185. Academic Press, Inc., San Diego, CA) and the tac promoter, or a fusion between the tac and trp promoters referred to as the trc promoter (Maniatis, 1982, Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY). Particularly preferred promoters include the T7 promoter, which is used in conjunction with host cell expression of a T7 RNA polymerase (see Studier et al. 1990, Meth. Enzymol. 185:60-89), and the trc promoter, which is found in several commercially available vectors, as described below.

Preferred bacterial expression vectors include, but are not limited to, the pET vectors (see Studier et al. 1990, *supra*) and the Trc vectors. Many of the pET vectors are commercially available from Stratagene Cloning Systems (La Jolla, CA). A particularly preferred vector is the pET Trc SO5/NI vector described below (SEQ ID NO:18). A Trc vector, pTrc 99A, is available from Pharmacia. Other Trc vectors include the pSE vectors (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA).

Preferred bacteria for expression of recombinant mAbs include Bacillus subtilis and, most preferably, Escherichia coli. A particularly preferred strain of E. coli is strain W3110 (ATCC designation 27325). Under certain unusual conditions it may be necessary to use standard bacterial genetics methods to prepare derivative strains of W3110, for

example, when a contaminating bacteriophage ("phage") is present in the laboratory where the bacterial manipulations are being carried out. Generally, and particularly for large scale preparation of the recombinant anti-KSSKC mAbs of the invention, it is preferred to use unmodified W3110, or another fully characterized strain.

In cases where phage contamination is a problem and disinfection is not practicable or desirable, it is preferred to identify the phage contaminant and to then use a fully characterized bacterial strain having a known mutation rendering the bacterium resistant to the phage. Preferably the mutation is a null mutant for the receptor for the phage. In some instances, however, the generation use of a relatively uncharacterized phage-resistant derivative strain may be acceptable, particularly in small scale experimental work. When such derivative strains are desired, they may be prepared using the methods described below in Example 11.

For most purposes the use of unmodified W3110 or another fully characterized bacterial strain is generally preferred. This is particularly true for the preparation of pharmaceutical agents comprising the recombinant anti-KSSKC mAbs of the invention. This is because of the problems, well known in the art, of using bacterial strains containing uncharacterized or partially characterized mutations for the production of ingredients of pharmaceutical agents.

The recombinant mAbs of the invention may also be expressed in fungal hosts, preferably yeast of the Saccharomyces genus such as S. cerevisiae. Fungi of other genera such as Aspergillus, Pichia or Kluyveromyces may also be employed. Fungal vectors will generally contain an origin of replication from the 2 μm yeast plasmid or another autonomously replicating sequence (ARS), a promoter, DNA encoding a mAb of the invention, sequences directing polyadenylation and transcription termination, and a selectable marker gene. Preferably, fungal vectors will include an origin of replication and selectable markers permitting transformation of both E. coli and fungi.

Suitable promoter systems in fungi include the promoters for metallothionein, 3-phosphoglycerate kinase, or other glycolytic enzymes such as enolase, hexokinase, pyruvate kinase, glucokinase, the glucose-repressible alcohol dehydrogenase promoter (ADH2), the constitutive promoter from the alcohol dehydrogenase gene, ADH1, and others. See, for example, Schena, et al. 1991 Meth. Enzymol. 194:389-398. Secretion signals, such as those directing the secretion of yeast alpha-factor or yeast invertase, can be incorporated into the fungal vector to promote secretion of a soluble recombinant mAb into the fungal growth medium. See Moir, et al., 1991, Meth. Enzymol. 194:491-507.

Preferred fungal expression vectors can be assembled using DNA sequences from pBR322 for selection and replication in bacteria, and fungal DNA sequences, including the ADH1 promoter and the alcohol dehydrogenase ADH1 termination sequence, as found in vector pAAH5 (Ammerer, 1983, Meth. Enzymol. 101:192). The ADH1 promoter is effective in yeast in that ADH1 mRNA is estimated to be 1 - 2% of total poly(A) RNA.

Various mammalian or insect cell culture systems can be employed to express recombinant mAbs. Suitable baculovirus systems for production of heterologous proteins in insect cells are reviewed by Luckow, et al., 1988. Examples of suitable mammalian host cell lines include the COS cell of monkey kidney origin, mouse L cells, murine C127 mammary epithelial cells, mouse Balb/3T3 cells, Chinese hamster ovary cells (CHO), human 293 EBNA and HeLa cells, myeloma, and baby hamster kidney (BHK) cells, with myeloma cells, CHO cells, and human 293 EBNA cells being particularly preferred.

Mammalian expression vectors may comprise non-transcribed elements such as origin of replication, a suitable promoter and enhancer linked to the recombinant mAb gene to be expressed, and other 5' or 3' flanking sequences such as ribosome binding sites, a polyadenylation sequence, splice donor and acceptor sites, and transcriptional termination sequences.

The transcriptional and translational control sequences in

mammalian expression vector systems to be used in transforming vertebrate cells may be provided by viral sources. For example, commonly used promoters and enhancers are derived from Polyoma virus, Adenovirus, Simian Virus 40 (SV40), and human cytomegalovirus, including the cytomegalovirus immediate-early gene 1 promoter and enhancer (CMV).

Particularly preferred eukaryotic vectors for the expression of recombinant anti-KSSKC mAbs are pAPEX-1 (SEQ ID NO:3 and, more preferably, pAPEX-3p, SEQ ID NO:4. The vector pAPEX-1 is a derivative of the vector pcDNAI/Amp (Invitrogen) which was modified to increase protein expression levels. First, the 3'-untranslated SV40 small-t antigen intron was removed by deletion of a 601 base pair *Xba*I/*Hpa*I fragment since this intron is susceptible to aberrant splicing into upstream coding regions (Evans and Scarpulla, 1989 Gene 84:135; Huang and Gorman, 1990, Molec. Cell Biol. 10:1805). Second, a chimeric adenovirus-immunoglobulin hybrid intron was introduced into the 5'-untranslated region by replacing a 484 base pair *Nde*I-*Not*I fragment with a corresponding 845 base pair *Nde*I-*Not*I fragment from the vector pRc/CMV7SB (Sato et al., 1994, J. Biol. Chem. 269:17267). Finally, to increase plasmid DNA yields from E. coli, the resulting CMV promoter expression cassette was shuttled into the vector pGEM-4Z (Promega Corp. Madison, WI).

The vector pAPEX-3 is a derivative of the vector pDR2 (Clontech Laboratories, Inc. Palo Alto, CA) in which the EBNA gene was first removed by deletion of a 2.4 kb *Cla*I/*Acc*I fragment. The RSV promoter was then replaced with the CMV promoter and the adenovirus/immunoglobulin chimeric intron by exchanging a 450 bp *Mlu*I/*Bam*HI fragment from pDR2 with a 1.0 kb *Mlu*I/*Bam*HI fragment from the vector pAPEX-1. For construction of pAPEX-3P, a 1.7 kb *Bst*BI/*Swa*I fragment containing the HSV tk promoter and hygromycin phosphotransferase (hyg) gene was removed from pAPEX-3 and replaced with a 1.1 kb *Sna*BI/*Nhe*I fragment containing the SV40 early promoter and puromycin acetyltransferase (pac) gene (Morgenstern and Land, 1990, Nucleic Acids Res. 18:3587-3596) plus a 137 bp *Xba*I/*Cla*I

fragment containing an SV40 polyadenylation signal from the vector pAPEX-1.

A particularly preferred host cell for the expression of recombinant mAb-encoding inserts in the pAPEX vectors is the human 293 EBNA cell line (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA).

Another preferred eukaryotic vector for the expression of recombinant mAbs is pcDNAI/Amp (Invitrogen Corporation, San Diego, California). The pcDNAI/Amp expression vector contains the human cytomegalovirus immediate-early gene I promoter and enhancer elements, the Simian Virus 40 (SV40) consensus intron donor and acceptor splice sequences, and the SV40 consensus polyadenylation signal. This vector also contains an SV40 origin of replication that allows for episomal amplification in cells (e.g., COS cells, MOP8 cells, etc.) transformed with SV40 large T antigen, and an ampicillin resistance gene for propagation and selection in bacterial hosts.

Purified recombinant mAbs are prepared by culturing suitable host/vector systems to express the recombinant mAb translation products of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention, which are then purified from the culture media or cell extracts of the host system, e.g., the bacteria, insect cells, fungal, or mammalian cells. Fermentation of fungi or mammalian cells that express recombinant mAb proteins containing a histidine tag sequence (a sequence comprising a stretch of at least 5 histidine residues) as a secreted product greatly simplifies purification. Such a histidine tag sequence enables binding under specific conditions to metals such as nickel, and thereby to nickel (or other metal) columns for purification. Recombinant mAbs may also be purified by protein G affinity chromatography (Proudfoot et al., 1992, Protein Express. Purif. 3:368).

Additional preferred embodiments are numbered and set forth below as "favored embodiments."

"FAVORED EMBODIMENTS"

1. A method for the treatment of glomerulonephritis in a patient in need of such treatment comprising introducing an

antibody that binds to complement component C5 into the patient's bloodstream in an amount effective to substantially reduce the cell-lysing ability of complement present in the patient's blood.

2. The method of favored embodiment 1 wherein the antibody reduces the conversion of complement component C5 into complement components C5a and C5b.

3. The method of favored embodiment 1 wherein the antibody binds to C5b.

4. The method of favored embodiment 1 wherein the antibody does not substantially inhibit formation of complement component C3b.

5. The method of favored embodiment 1 wherein the antibody is introduced into the patient's bloodstream in a dose that is not greater than 0.1 grams per kilogram.

6. An article of manufacture comprising packaging material and a pharmaceutical agent contained within said packaging material, wherein:

(a) said pharmaceutical agent comprises an antibody to complement component C5, said antibody being effective in substantially reducing the cell-lysing ability of complement present in the patient's blood; and

(b) said packaging material comprises a label which indicates that said pharmaceutical agent is for use in the treatment of kidney disease.

7. The article of manufacture of favored embodiment 6 wherein the label indicates that said pharmaceutical agent is for use in the treatment of nephritis.

8. The article of manufacture of favored embodiment 7 wherein the label indicates that said pharmaceutical agent is for use in the treatment of glomerulonephritis.

9. The article of manufacture of favored embodiment 6 wherein the pharmaceutical agent is to be used at a dosage level not greater than 0.1 grams per kilogram.

10. An antibody comprising at least one antibody-antigen binding site, said antibody exhibiting specific binding to human

complement component C5, said specific binding being targeted to the alpha chain of human complement component C5, wherein the antibody inhibits complement activation in a human body fluid and does not specifically bind to the human complement activation product free C5a.

11. The antibody of favored embodiment 10 wherein the inhibition of complement activation in the human body fluid is measurable as a substantial increment of blockade of C5a generation and a substantial increment of blockade of complement hemolytic activity in the body fluid, said increment of blockade of C5a generation being substantially equal to said increment of blockade of complement hemolytic activity.

12. The antibody of favored embodiment 10 wherein, upon binding to human C5, the antibody substantially inhibits the ability of C5 to bind to human complement component C3.

13. The antibody of favored embodiment 10 wherein, upon binding to human C5, the antibody substantially inhibits the ability of C5 to bind to human complement component C4.

14. The antibody of favored embodiment 10 wherein the antibody binds specifically with a 5G46k fragment.

15. The antibody of favored embodiment 10 wherein the antibody binds specifically to a 5G27k fragment.

16. The antibody of favored embodiment 10 wherein the antibody binds specifically to a 5G325aa peptide.

17. The antibody of favored embodiment 10 wherein the antibody binds specifically to a 5G200aa peptide.

18. The antibody of favored embodiment 10 wherein the antibody binds specifically to a KSSKC peptide.

19. The antibody of favored embodiment 10 wherein the inhibition of complement activation in the human body fluid is measurable as a substantially complete blockade of C5a generation in the body fluid and a substantially complete blockade of complement hemolytic activity in the body fluid when the antibody is added to the body fluid at a concentration yielding a ratio equal to or less than 10 moles of antibody-antigen binding sites of the antibody to 1 mole of human C5 in

the body fluid.

20. The antibody of favored embodiment 19 wherein the concentration yields a ratio equal to or less than 3 moles of antibody-antigen binding sites of the antibody to 1 mole of human C5 in the body fluid.

21. Hybridoma 5G1.1 having ATCC designation HB-11625.

22. An antibody produced by the hybridoma of favored embodiment 21.

23. An antibody that can compete with the antibody of favored embodiment 22 for binding to the alpha chain of human C5.

24. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an scFv polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 248 of SEQ ID NO:7.

25. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising a variable light chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 3 through amino acid 110 of SEQ ID NO:9.

26. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising a variable heavy chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 122 of SEQ ID NO:10.

27. An isolated protein comprising:

(a) a first polypeptide region comprising a variable light chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 3 through amino acid 110 of SEQ ID NO:9.; and

(b) a second polypeptide region comprising a variable heavy chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 122 of SEQ ID NO:10.

28. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of favored embodiment 24, favored embodiment 25, or favored embodiment 26, wherein the polypeptide is an antibody.

29. A nucleic acid vector comprising a first nucleic acid molecule covalently and operatively linked to a second nucleic

acid molecule so that a host containing the vector expresses the polypeptide coded for by the first nucleic acid molecule, wherein the first nucleic acid molecule is the nucleic acid molecule of favored embodiment 24, favored embodiment 25, or favored embodiment 26.

30. A recombinant host cell containing the nucleic acid vector of favored embodiment 29.

31. A method for producing an isolated C5 antibody polypeptide comprising growing the recombinant host cell of favored embodiment 30 such that the polypeptide encoded by the first nucleic acid molecule of the vector is expressed by the host cell, and isolating the expressed polypeptide, wherein the expressed polypeptide is an anti-C5 antibody.

32. The isolated anti-C5 antibody of favored embodiment 31.

33. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an scFv comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 248 of SEQ ID NO:8.

34. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an scFv comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 248 of SEQ ID NO:17.

35. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising a variable light chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 108 of SEQ ID NO:15.

36. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising a variable light chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 3 through amino acid 110 of SEQ ID NO:14.

37. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising a variable heavy chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 122 of SEQ ID NO:16.

38. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising a variable heavy chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 122 of SEQ ID NO:12.

39. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising a variable heavy chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 122 of SEQ ID NO:11.

40. An isolated protein comprising:

(a) a first polypeptide region comprising a variable light chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 108 of SEQ ID NO:15; and

(b) a second polypeptide region comprising a variable heavy chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 122 of SEQ ID NO:16.

41. An isolated protein comprising:

(a) a first polypeptide region comprising a variable light chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 1 through amino acid 108 of SEQ ID NO:15; and

(b) a second polypeptide region comprising a variable heavy chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 122 of SEQ ID NO:12.

42. An isolated protein comprising:

(a) a first polypeptide region comprising a variable light chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 108 of SEQ ID NO:15; and

(b) a second polypeptide region comprising a variable heavy chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 122 of SEQ ID NO:11.

43. An isolated protein comprising:

(a) a first polypeptide region comprising a variable light chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 3 through amino acid 110 of SEQ ID NO:14; and

(b) a second polypeptide region comprising a variable heavy chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 122 of SEQ ID NO:16.

44. An isolated protein comprising:

(a) a first polypeptide region comprising a variable light chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino

acid 3 through amino acid 110 of SEQ ID NO:14; and

(b) a second polypeptide region comprising a variable heavy chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 122 of SEQ ID NO:12.

45. An isolated protein comprising:

(a) a first polypeptide region comprising a variable light chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 3 through amino acid 110 of SEQ ID NO:14; and

(b) a second polypeptide region comprising a variable heavy chain region amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 1 through amino acid 122 of SEQ ID NO:11.

46. An isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of favored embodiment 33, favored embodiment 34, favored embodiment 35, favored embodiment 36, favored embodiment 37, favored embodiment 38, or favored embodiment 39, wherein the isolated protein is an anti-C5 antibody.

47. A nucleic acid vector comprising a first nucleic acid molecule covalently and operatively linked to a second nucleic acid molecule so that a host containing the vector expresses the polypeptide coded for by the first nucleic acid molecule, wherein the first nucleic acid molecule is the nucleic acid molecule of favored embodiment 33, favored embodiment 34, favored embodiment 35, favored embodiment 36, favored embodiment 37, favored embodiment 38, or favored embodiment 39.

48. A recombinant host cell containing the nucleic acid vector of favored embodiment 47.

49. A method for producing an isolated anti-C5 antibody protein comprising growing the recombinant host cell of favored embodiment 48 such that a protein encoded by the nucleic acid molecule is expressed by the host cell, and isolating the expressed protein, wherein the expressed protein is an anti-C5 antibody.

50. The isolated anti-C5 antibody of favored embodiment 47.

51. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable light

region CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 93 through amino acid 98 of SEQ ID NO:7;

(b) a sequence complementary to (a); or

(c) both (a) and (b).

52. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable light region CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 91 through amino acid 99 of SEQ ID NO:8;

(b) a sequence complementary to (a); or

(c) both (a) and (b).

53. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 156 through amino acid 159 of SEQ ID NO:7;

(b) a sequence complementary to (a); or

(c) both (a) and (b).

54. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 152 through amino acid 161 of SEQ ID NO:8;

(b) a sequence complementary to (a); or

(c) both (a) and (b).

55. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 179 through amino acid 182 of SEQ ID NO:7;

(b) a sequence complementary to (a); or

(c) both (a) and (b).

56. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 176 through amino acid 186 of SEQ ID NO:8;

(b) a sequence complementary to (a); or

(c) both (a) and (b).

57. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy

region CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 226 through amino acid 236 of SEQ ID NO:7;

(b) a sequence complementary to (a); or

(c) both (a) and (b).

58. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 225 through amino acid 237 of SEQ ID NO:8;

(b) a sequence complementary to (a); or

(c) both (a) and (b).

59. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable light region CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 91 through amino acid 99 of SEQ ID NO:8;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 152 through amino acid 161 of SEQ ID NO:8;

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 176 through amino acid 186 of SEQ ID NO:8; and

(d) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 225 through amino acid 237 of SEQ ID NO:8.

60. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable light region CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 91 through amino acid 99 of SEQ ID NO:8;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 152 through amino acid 161 of SEQ ID NO:8;

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 176 through amino acid 192 of SEQ ID NO:8; and

(d) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 225 through amino acid 237 of SEQ ID NO:8.

61. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable light region CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 91 through amino acid 99 of SEQ ID NO:8;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 152 through amino acid 161 of SEQ ID NO:8;

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 179 through amino acid 182 of SEQ ID NO:7; and

(d) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 225 through amino acid 237 of SEQ ID NO:8.

62. An isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of favored embodiment 51, favored embodiment 52, favored embodiment 53, favored embodiment 54, favored embodiment 55, favored embodiment 56, favored embodiment 57, favored embodiment 58, favored embodiment 59, favored embodiment 60 or favored embodiment 87.

63. The isolated protein of favored embodiment 62 wherein the protein is an anti-C5 antibody.

64. A nucleic acid vector comprising a first nucleic acid molecule, said first nucleic acid molecule corresponding to the nucleic acid molecule of favored embodiment 51, favored embodiment 52, favored embodiment 53, favored embodiment 54, favored embodiment 55, favored embodiment 56, favored embodiment 57, favored embodiment 58, or favored embodiment 87 covalently and operatively linked to a second nucleic acid molecule so that a host containing the vector expresses the protein encoded by the first nucleic acid molecule.

65. A recombinant host cell containing the nucleic acid vector of favored embodiment 64.

66. A method for producing an anti-C5 antibody comprising growing the recombinant host cell of favored embodiment 65 so that the protein encoded by the nucleic acid molecule is expressed by the host cell, and isolating the expressed protein,

wherein the expressed protein is an anti-C5 antibody.

67. The anti-C5 antibody of favored embodiment 66.

68. An isolated 5G46k fragment of human complement component C5.

69. An isolated 5G27k fragment of human complement component C5.

70. An isolated 5G325aa peptide.

71. An isolated 5G200aa peptide.

Submit 72. An isolated oligopeptide comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 8 through amino acid 12 of SEQ ID NO:1.

73. A method of inducing an animal to produce an anti-C5 antibody comprising repeatedly immunizing an animal with the isolated alpha chain of human C5.

74. A method of inducing an animal to produce an anti-C5 antibody comprising immunizing an animal with the isolated 5G46k fragment of favored embodiment 68.

75. A method of inducing an animal to produce an anti-C5 antibody comprising immunizing an animal with the isolated 5G27k fragment of favored embodiment 69.

76. A method of inducing an animal to produce an anti-C5 antibody comprising immunizing an animal with the isolated 5G325aa peptide of favored embodiment 70.

77. A method of inducing an animal to produce an anti-C5 antibody comprising immunizing an animal with the isolated 5G200aa peptide of favored embodiment 71.

78. A method of inducing an animal to produce an anti-C5 antibody comprising immunizing an animal with the isolated oligopeptide of favored embodiment 72.

79. A method of identifying an anti-C5 antibody comprising screening candidate antibodies with the isolated alpha chain of human C5.

80. A method of identifying an anti-C5 antibody comprising screening candidate antibodies with the isolated 5G46k fragment of favored embodiment 68.

81. A method of identifying an anti-C5 antibody comprising

screening candidate antibodies with the isolated 5G27k fragment of favored embodiment 69.

82. A method of identifying an anti-C5 antibody comprising screening candidate antibodies with the isolated 5G325aa peptide of favored embodiment 70.

83. A method of identifying an anti-C5 antibody comprising screening candidate antibodies with the isolated 5G200aa peptide of favored embodiment 71.

84. A method of identifying an anti-C5 antibody comprising screening candidate antibodies with the isolated oligopeptide of favored embodiment 72.

85. A method of treating a patient in need of complement inhibition comprising administering the antibody of favored embodiment 10, favored embodiment 22, favored embodiment 23, favored embodiment 28, favored embodiment 32, favored embodiment 46, favored embodiment 50, favored embodiment 63, or favored embodiment 67 to the patient in an amount effective to substantially reduce hemolytic activity in a body fluid of the patient.

86. The antibody of favored embodiment 10 wherein the antibody is a recombinant antibody that comprises a human constant domain.

87. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 176 through amino acid 192 of SEQ ID NO:8;

(b) a sequence complementary to (a); or

(c) both (a) and (b).

88. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a variable heavy region CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acid 176 through amino acid 192 of SEQ ID NO:8;

(b) a sequence complementary to (a); or

(c) both (a) and (b).

89. An isolated antibody comprising any one of the CDR regions of CO12, CO13, CO14, Co15, DO12b, DO12C, DO12D.

90. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the antibody of favored embodiment 89.

Examples

Without intending to limit it in any manner, the present invention will be more fully described by the following examples. The methods and materials which are common to various of the examples are as follows.

Induction of GN in Mice

Four month old female B10.D2/nSnJ mice averaging approximately 25 gms each were obtained from the Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME. Mice were injected with 0.1 mL daily (six days per week) of a 40 mg/mL solution of horse apoferritin (HAF), which was prepared by dilution of a saline solution of HAF (Sigma Chemical Company Catalog No. A-3641) with PBS.

Anti-C5 Monoclonal Antibodies

Monoclonal antibodies that bind to complement component C5 of the mouse were prepared by standard methods as an IgG fraction from supernatants of cultures of hybridoma BB5.1 (Frei, et al., 1987), which was obtained from Dr. Brigitta Stockinger of the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, London, England.

Histology

Kidneys were subjected to microscopic analysis using standard histochemical staining and immunofluorescence techniques. Periodic Acid Schiff (PAS) staining of 5μ paraffin sections was by standard methods using a HARLECO PAS histochemical reaction set (EM Diagnostic Systems, Gibbstown, NJ, number 64945/93) according to the manufacturer's directions.

Immunofluorescence staining of 5μ cryostat sections was carried out by standard methods using FITC conjugated sheep anti-mouse C3 (Biodesign International, Kennebunk, ME, Catalog No. W90280F) to detect murine complement component C3, or FITC conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG, IgA, and IgM (Zymed Laboratories, South San Francisco, CA, Catalog No. 65-6411) to

detect immune complexes.

Urine Assays

Protein and glucose levels were determined by spotting urine samples on CHEMSTRIP 2GP dipsticks (Boehringer Mannheim Diagnostics, Indianapolis, IN, Catalog No. 200743). The detection areas of these strips change color when exposed to urine containing protein or glucose; a lack of color change indicates no detectable protein or glucose is present. The level of analyte in the urine being tested is read out by matching changed colors with color charts supplied by the manufacturer. The urine protein chart shows colors corresponding to trace, 30, 100, and 500 mg/dL.

Cell Lysis Assays

The cell-lysing ability of complement in blood can be determined using hemolytic assays that are performed as follows: Chicken erythrocytes are washed well in GVBS (Rollins, et al., J Immunol 144:3478-3483, 1990, Sigma Chemical Co. St. Louis, MO, catalog No. G-6514) and resuspended to $2x10^8$/mL in GVBS. Anti-chicken erythrocyte antibody (IgG fraction of anti-chicken-RBC antiserum, Intercell Technologies, Hopewell, NJ) is added to the cells at a final concentration of 25 µg/mL and the cells are incubated for 15 min. at 23°C. The cells are washed 2x with GVBS and $5x10^6$ cells are resuspended to 30 µL in GVBS. A 100 µL volume of serum test solution is then added to yield a final reaction mixture volume of 130 µL. As used herein, reference to the serum percentage and/or serum input in these assays indicates the percent serum in the 100 µL volume of serum test solution.

For assays of mouse serum activity, the 100 µL volume of serum test solution contained 50 µL of diluted (in GVBS) mouse serum and 50 µL of human C5 deficient serum (Quidel Corporation, San Diego, CA). For assays of human serum activity, the serum test solution may contain up to 100% human plasma or serum, with hybridoma supernatants and/or GVBS being added to yield the 100 µL volume. For the assays used to screen hybridoma supernatants discussed below in Example 7, each 100µL volume of serum test

solution contained 50µL of hybridoma supernatant and 50µL of a 10% solution of human serum in GVBS, yielding a 5% human serum input.

After incubation for 30 min. at 37°C, percent hemolysis was calculated relative to a fully lysed control sample. Hemolysis was determined by spinning the cells down and measuring released hemoglobin in the supernatant as the optical density at 415nm.

A 50% reduction in hemolysis after treatment with the anti-C5 antibodies used in the practice of the invention means that the percent hemolysis after treatment is one half of the percent hemolysis before treatment.

EXAMPLE 1

Anti-C5 Antibodies Inhibit Glomerular Inflammation and Enlargement

This example illustrates that anti-C5 antibodies will inhibit glomerular inflammation and enlargement.

The protocol for these experiments was as follows. GN-induced mice were treated with anti-C5 antibodies or with PBS as a control after 2 weeks of GN induction. Each mouse received 750 µg of anti-C5 monoclonal antibodies in PBS (30 mg/kg in a 25 gm mouse) or an equal volume of PBS alone. The amount injected was from 0.25 to 0.365 mL (the concentration of antibodies in PBS varied), which was administered by intraperitoneal injection once a day, six days a week. After an additional 2 weeks of induction and treatment, the animals were sacrificed and kidneys were harvested and prepared for histological examination as described above. Kidneys were also obtained from age-matched uninduced and untreated control mice.

Figure 1 shows sections of mouse kidneys with a single glomerulus located centrally amidst surrounding interstitium and cross sections of convoluted tubules in each section. As can be seen therein, the kidneys of the GN-induced, PBS-treated mice (Fig. 1B) developed severe crescentic glomerular pathology, including inflammatory glomerular hypercellularity, apparent basement membrane thickening, and glomerular enlargement, while the glomeruli of the GN-induced, anti-C5-treated animals (Figure

1C) were essentially indistinguishable from the glomeruli of the normal healthy kidneys of the uninduced untreated mice (Figure 1A).

Note that in the glomeruli with severe crescentic pathology, the size of the glomerular capillary network (glomerular tuft) is not enlarged, but shows signs of compression by a crescentic-shaped proliferation of epithelial cells and PAS-positive material, and the Bowman's capsule is dramatically enlarged. Also note that in the section of diseased glomerulus shown in Fig. 1B, the capillary network is split in half by a projection of the hypercellular crescentic mass.

The non-inflamed glomerulus of the uninduced untreated mouse shown in Figure 1A is approximately 100 μ in diameter; the inflamed glomerulus of the GN-induced, PBS treated mouse shown in Fig. 1B is approximately 175 μ in diameter; the non-inflamed glomerulus of the GN-induced, anti-C5-treated mouse shown in Fig. 1C is approximately 90 μ in diameter.

EXAMPLE 2

Anti-C5 Antibodies Prevent/Reduce Proteinuria Associated with GN

This example demonstrates that treatment with anti-C5 antibodies results in the prevention/reduction of kidney damage as evidenced by the lack of significant amounts of protein in the urine (i.e. the presence of less than 100mg/dL of protein in the urine).

The protocol for the experiments of this example was the same as that used in the experiments of Example 1. Five PBS-treated, GN-induced mice, 6 anti-C5-treated, GN-induced mice, and 4 age-matched untreated uninduced mice were used in this study. A first set of urine samples was analyzed prior to treatment after the initial 2 week induction period. A second set of urine samples was analyzed after the 2 week treatment period. None of the untreated uninduced control animals had detectable protein in their urine at either of these timepoints.

The results obtained with the GN-induced mice are set forth in Table 1. As shown therein, at the end of the 2 week PBS

treatment period, 4 out of the 5 PBS treated (control) animals developed significant proteinuria, i.e., at least 100mg/dL of protein in the urine. The fifth animal (mouse D in Table 1) did not have detectable protein in the urine at either timepoint but, unlike the other mice in the study, was found to have very high levels of glucose in the urine after the 2 week PBS treatment period, suggesting that this animal was physiologically compromised.

In the anti-C5-treated, GN-induced group, the one mouse that developed significant proteinuria at the end of the initial 2 week induction period (mouse 6 in Table 1) improved by the end of the 2 week antibody treatment period. In addition, in contrast to the development of significant proteinuria in 4 out of 5 PBS-treated, GN-induced mice, none of the anti-C5-treated, GN-induced mice exhibited significant proteinuria at the end of the 2 week antibody treatment period.

EXAMPLE 3

Anti-C5 Antibodies Do Not Inhibit Glomerular Immune Complex Deposition

This example demonstrates that anti-C5 antibodies used in the practice of the invention achieve their therapeutic effects even though immune complexes are deposited in the glomeruli of treated animals at equivalent levels to those seen in the glomeruli of PBS-treated animals. The example further illustrates that the mechanism of operation of the anti-C5 antibodies is not through the inhibition of immune complex deposition in the glomerulus.

The protocol used in the experiments of this example was the same as that used in the experiments of Example 1. Immunofluorescence staining as described above was performed on sections from the same kidneys harvested in Example 1.

The results are shown in Figure 2. As can be seen in this figure, equivalent amounts of immune complexes were deposited in the glomeruli of the kidneys of both the PBS-treated, GN-induced mice (Figure 2B) and the anti-C5-treated, GN-induced mice (Figure 2C), but not in the untreated uninduced controls (Figure

2A). Kidneys of GN-induced mice harvested after the 2 week induction period, but before treatment, showed immune complex deposits in the glomeruli, but at lower levels (as indicated by lower fluorescence intensity) than in the kidney sections shown in Fig. 2B and Fig. 2C.

EXAMPLE 4

Anti-C5 Antibodies Inhibit C5b-9 Generation

This example demonstrates that the anti-C5 antibodies used in the practice of the invention inhibit C5b-9 generation. C5b-9 generation was assayed in 2 ways: (1) by testing the cell-lysing (hemolytic) ability of blood samples, and (2) by measuring levels of soluble C5b-9 in blood samples.

Fig. 3 shows the results of cell lysis assays performed as described above, with mouse serum added to the percentage indicated on the X axis ("serum input %"). In these assays, serum from GN-induced animals treated with either anti-C5 antibodies in PBS or PBS alone (see above) was assayed at the end of the two week treatment period. Serum from normal, uninduced, uninjected mice ("normal mouse serum") obtained from Sigma Chemical Company (St. Louis, MO, Catalog No. S-3269) was also assayed as an additional control. These results indicate that the anti-C5 monoclonal antibody administered to mice at a dosage of 30 mg/Kg completely blocked the cell lysing ability of mouse blood at serum input levels 4-fold higher than the levels of normal serum that produce maximum hemolysis in the assay.

The effects of an anti-C5 monoclonal antibody raised to human C5 was evaluated in circulating human blood. Hybridoma N19/8 (Wurzner, et al., 1991) was obtained from Dr. Otto Götze, Department of Immunology, University of Göttingen, FRG. The C5 monoclonal antibody was prepared following immunization of mice with purified human C5 protein as described in Wurzner, et al., (1991). The hybridoma was propagated in mice, and the monoclonal antibody recovered and purified as an IgG fraction from mouse ascites fluid (Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York, 1988; Current Protocols In Immunology, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1992).

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To carry out these experiments, as well as others described below in Examples 5 and 6, 300 mL of whole human blood was drawn from a healthy human donor and additionally a 1 mL sample was removed as a control sample for later analysis. The blood was diluted to 600 mL by the addition of Ringer's lactate solution containing 10 U/mL heparin. The anti-C5 mAb (30 mg in sterile PBS) was added to the diluted blood to a final concentration of 50 µg/mL (results using test samples obtained in this way are labeled "+anti-C5 sample" in Fig. 4 and Fig. 6). In a control experiment, an equal volume of sterile PBS was added to diluted blood (results using control samples obtained in this way are labeled "-anti-C5 sample" in Fig. 4 and Fig. 6).

The blood was then used to prime the extracorporeal circuit of a COBE CML EXCEL membrane oxygenator cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) machine (Cobe BCT, Inc., Lakewood, CO) and circulation through the circuit was started. The circuit was cooled to 28°C and circulated for 60 minutes. The circuit was then warmed to 37°C and circulated for an additional 30 minutes, after which time the experiment was terminated. Mechanical circulation of blood in this fashion activates the complement cascade. Samples were taken at several time points.

Subm5 At each time point an aliquot of blood was taken, and subaliquots were centrifuged to remove all cells and the remaining plasma diluted 1:1 in Quidel sample preservation solution (Quidel Corporation, San Diego, CA) and stored at -80°C for subsequent evaluation of soluble C5b-9 (sC5b-9) generation. Diluted subaliquots of plasma were also frozen for evaluation of C3a generation (see Example 5, below). Undiluted subaliquots of plasma were frozen at - 80°C for analysis in hemolytic assays to evaluate the pharmacokinetics of the effects of the anti-C5 antibodies on the cell lysing ability of complement present in the blood (see Example 6, below). These experiments are also discussed in copending US patent application Serial No. 08/217,391, filed March 23, 1994, now US patent No. 5,853,722

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sC5b-9 assays were performed before the addition of the antibody or the commencement of the CPB circuit (labeled "Pre

Tx" in Fig. 4 and Fig. 6) using undiluted blood (i.e. blood from the 1mL sample taken before the blood was diluted with Ringer's lactate solution -- labeled "undil" in Fig. 4 and Fig. 6) and Ringer's lactate solution diluted blood (labeled "dil" in Fig. 4 and Fig. 6). Samples of Ringer's lactate solution diluted blood to which the antibody had been added (labeled "Post Tx" in Fig. 4 and Fig. 6) were assayed at the times indicated after starting the CPB circuit.

As can be seen in Figure 4, while sC5b-9 levels were more than 4-fold higher in untreated samples after 90 minutes of circulation than before circulation, the anti-C5 antibody completely inhibited C5b-9 generation throughout the 90 minute time course of circulation so that sC5b-9 levels during circulation were essentially equivalent to control, uncirculated samples, at all timepoints.

EXAMPLE 5

Anti-C5 Antibodies Do Not Inhibit C3 Deposition Or Activation

This example demonstrates that treatment with anti-C5 antibodies does not result in the inhibition of the activation of complement component C3 or in the deposition of C3 or its activated fragments in glomeruli.

The deposition of C3, or the fragments generated by its activation (e.g., C3a and C3b), in the glomeruli of GN-induced and GN-uninduced mice was visualized by immunofluorescence staining with a FITC-conjugated sheep anti-mouse C3 antibody preparation using standard methods, as described above. As can be seen in Fig. 5, kidneys of the PBS-treated (Fig. 5B) and the anti-C5 antibody-treated (Fig. 5C) GN-induced mice had roughly equivalent levels of C3 immunoreactive material in the glomeruli, while the uninduced untreated control mice had only traces of C3 immunoreactive material in their kidneys (Fig. 5A).

Note that the print shown in Fig. 5A was overexposed compared to those of Fig. 5B and Fig. 5C to show the very slight levels of reactivity present in normal uninduced kidneys. Kidneys of GN-induced mice harvested after the 2 week induction

period, but before treatment, showed C3 immunoreactive materials in the glomeruli, but at lower levels (as indicated by lower fluorescence intensity) than in the kidney sections shown in Fig. 5B and Fig. 5C.

Anti-human C5 antibodies were also tested for possible inhibition of C3 activation in human blood prepared and circulated as described above in Example 4. Activation of complement component C3 was indicated by the presence in the blood of the C3 activation product C3a. C3a assays were performed as follows.

The plasma samples that had previously been diluted in Quidel sample preservation solution and frozen (see Example 4) were assayed for the presence of C3a by using the Quidel C3a EIA kit (Quidel Corporation, San Diego, CA) according to the manufacturers specifications. Concentrations of C3a in the samples is expressed as ng/well as determined by comparison to a standard curve generated from samples containing known amounts of human C3a.

As seen in Fig. 6, the addition of the anti-C5 mAb had no inhibitory effect on the production of C3a during the circulation of human blood in this experiment.

EXAMPLE 6

Pharmacokinetics of Anti-C5 Antibodies

The in vivo duration of action of mAb BB5.1, and a Fab' fragment of mAb BB5.1 (prepared by standard methods) was determined in normal female BALB/cByJ mice (averaging approximately 20 gms each) which were obtained from the Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME. The mice were given a single intravenous injection (at 35 mg/kg body weight) of the mAB or the Fab' fragment of the mAb (or an equal volume of PBS as a control). Blood samples were collected from the retroorbital plexus at 1, 4, 24, 96, and 144 hours after administration of PBS; 4, 16, and 24 hours after administration of the Fab' fragment of mAb BB5.1; and 4, 24, 48, 72, 96, and 144 hours after administration of intact mAb BB5.1.

Fig. 7A shows the time course of inhibition of the cell-

lysing ability of complement in mouse blood (determined, by testing serum obtained from the blood and diluted to 2.5%, as described above) after the in vivo administration of the mAb, the Fab' fragment, or the PBS. As shown in the figure, the mAb almost completely inhibited the hemolytic activity of the blood throughout the 6 day test period. The Fab', however, had a half-life of approximately 24 hours.

In addition to the above experiments, at the end of the 6 day testing period all of the mice were sacrificed. Kidneys, lungs, and livers were harvested and examined by gross inspection, as well as by microscopic examination of stained sections. All of the organs of the anti-C5 antibody treated animals appeared the same as those taken from PBS control treated animals. The overall appearance of the test and control mice was also indistinguishable prior to necropsy.

Anti-human C5 antibodies were also tested for pharmacokinetic properties in circulating human blood as described above in Example 4. As described therein, the hemolysis inhibiting effects of an anti-human C5 monoclonal antibody were assayed over a 90 minute period of circulation. The results of these assays are charted in Fig. 7B, and show that the N19/8 anti-C5 mAb essentially completely inhibited the cell lysing ability of the human blood during the entire 90 minute period of circulation.

The results of these experiments demonstrate that the anti-C5 antibodies will survive in the bloodstream for a substantial period of time, thus making periodic administration practical.

EXAMPLE 7

Preparation of Anti-C5 Monoclonal Antibodies

A monoclonal antibody suitable for use in the practice of the present invention was prepared in accordance with the teachings of Sims, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,135,916, as follows.

Balb/c mice were immunized three times by intraperitoneal injection with human C5 protein (Quidel Corporation, San Diego, CA, Cat # A403). The first injection contained 100µg of C5

protein in a complete Freund's adjuvant emulsion, the second immunization contained 100µg of C5 protein in an incomplete Freund's adjuvant emulsion, and the third immunization was 100µg of protein in PBS. The mice were injected at roughly 2 month intervals.

Fusions of splenocytes to myeloma cells to generate hybridomas were performed essentially as described in Current Protocols in Immunology (John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1992, pages 2.5.1 to 2.5.17). One day prior to fusion the mice were boosted IV with 100µg of C5 protein. On the day of fusion, the immunized mice were sacrificed and spleens was harvested. SP2/0-AG14 myeloma cells (ATCC CRL#1581) were used as the fusion partner. SP2/0-AG14 cultures were split on the day before the fusion to induce active cell division. A ratio of 1:10 (myeloma cells:splenocytes) was used in the fusions.

The cells were fused using PEG 1450 in PBS without calcium (Sigma Chemical Company, St. Louis, MO, Catalog No. P-7181) and plated at 1-2.5 x 10^5 cells per well. Selection in EX-CELL 300 medium (JRH Biosciences, Lexena, KS, Catalog No. 14337-78P) supplemented with 10% heat inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS); glutamine, penicillin and streptomycin (GPS); and HAT (Sigma Chemical Company, St. Louis, MO, Catalog No. H-0262) was started the following day. The fusions were then fed every other day with fresh FBS, GPS, and HAT supplemented medium. Cell death could be seen as early as 2 days and viable cell clusters could be seen as early as 5 days after initiating selection. After two weeks of selection in HAT, surviving hybridomas chosen for further study were transferred to EX-CELL 300 medium supplemented with FBS, GPS, and HT (Sigma Chemical Company, St. Louis, MO, Catalog No. H-0137) for 1 week and then cultured in EX-CELL 300 medium supplemented with FBS and GPS.

Hybridomas were screened for reactivity to C5 and inhibition of complement-mediated hemolysis 10-14 days after fusion, and were carried at least until the screening results were analyzed. The screen for inhibition of hemolysis was the chicken erythrocyte lysis assay described above. The screen for C5

reactivity was an ELISA, which was carried out using the following protocol:

A 50 µL aliquot of a 2 µg/mL solution of C5 (Quidel Corporation, San Diego, CA) in sodium carbonate/bicarbonate buffer, pH 9.5, was incubated overnight at 4°C in each test well of a 96 well plate (Nunc-Immuno F96 Polysorp, A/S Nunc, Roskilde, Denmark). The wells were then subjected to a wash step. (Each wash step consisted of three washes with TBST.) Next, test wells were blocked with 200 µL of blocking solution, 1% BSA in TBS (BSA/TBS), for 1 hour at 37°C. After an additional wash step, a 50 µL aliquot of hybridoma supernatant was incubated in each test well for 1 hour at 37°C with a subsequent wash step. As a secondary (detection) antibody, 50 µL of a 1:2000 dilution of horseradish peroxidase (HRP) conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG in BSA/TBS, was incubated in each test well for 1 hour at 37°C, followed by a wash step. Following the manufacturer's procedures, 10 mg of O-phenylenediamine (Sigma Chemical Company, St. Louis, MO, Catalog No. P-8287) was dissolved in 25 mLs of phosphate-citrate buffer (Sigma Chemical Company, St. Louis, MO, Catalog No. P-4922), and 50 µL of this substrate solution was added to each well to allow detection of peroxidase activity. Finally, to stop the peroxidase detection reaction, a 50 µL aliquot of 3N hydrochloric acid was added to each well. The presence of antibodies reactive with C5 in the hybridoma supernatants was read out by a spectrophotometric OD determination at 490 nm.

The supernatant from a hybridoma designated as 5G1.1 tested positive by ELISA and substantially reduced the cell-lysing ability of complement present in normal human blood in the chicken erythrocyte hemolysis assay. Further analyses revealed that the 5G1.1 antibody reduces the cell-lysing ability of complement present in normal human blood so efficiently that, even when present at roughly one-half the molar concentration of human C5 in the hemolytic assay, it can almost completely neutralize serum hemolytic activity.

Immunoblot analysis was undertaken to further characterize

the 5G1.1 mAb. Human C5 (Quidel Corporation, San Diego, CA, Catalog No. A403) was subjected to polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis under reducing conditions, transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane, and probed with the 5G1.1 mAb as a purified IgG preparation. Two bands were immunoreactive with the 5G1.1 mAb at apparent molecular weights corresponding to those of the alpha and beta chains of the human C5 protein. The two 5G1.1 immunoreactive bands seen on this Western blot were subsequently found to result from the binding of the 5G1.1 antibody to the 115 kDa C5 alpha chain and to a large fragment of the alpha chain that had the same apparent molecular weight (approximately 75 kDa) as the beta chain of C5 and was present in the C5 preparations used for the experiment.

Assays were performed to determine the relative activity of the N19/8 mAb discussed in Examples 4 and 5 with the 5G1.1 mAb in functional hemolytic assays and to assess whether these mAbs blocked the cleavage of C5 to yield C5a. To this end, the N19/8 and 5G1.1 mAbs were directly compared in human complement hemolytic and C5a release assays.

Hemolytic assays performed in the presence of 20% v/v human serum revealed that the 5G1.1 mAb effectively blocked serum hemolytic activity at a final concentration of 6.25µg/ml (0.5 / 1 molar ratio of 5G1.1 / C5) whereas the N19/8 mAb blocked at a higher concentration of 25.0µg/ml (2.0 / 1 molar ratio of N19/8 / C5). When the supernatants from these assays were tested for the presence of C5a, the 5G1.1 mAb was found to have effectively inhibited C5a generation at doses identical to those required for the blockade of C5b-9 mediated hemolytic activity.

In contrast, the N19/8 mAb was 10 fold less effective in blocking the release of C5a in these assays when compared to the 5G1.1 mAb. Furthermore, the ability of the N19/8 mAb to block complement mediated hemolysis was not equivalent to its capacity to block C5a generation in that a dose of 25µg/ml of N19/8 completely blocked hemolysis while only reducing C5a generation by 37%.

Hybridoma 5G1.1 was deposited with the American Type Culture

Collection, 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland, 20852, United States of America, on April 27, 1994, and has been assigned the designation HB-11625. This deposit were made under the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Micro-organisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure (1977).

EXAMPLE 8

Determination of the affinity constants (K_D) for the anti-human C5 monoclonal antibodies 5G1.1 and N19/8

The procedure utilized to determine the dissociation constant (K_D) of antibody-antigen equilibria in solution was that described by Friguet et al., J. Immunol. Meth. 1985, 77:305-319. This method was used to determine the K_D for the anti-human C5 monoclonal antibodies N19/8 and 5G1.1. The monoclonal antibodies were incubated with the antigen (C5) in solution until the equilibrium was reached. The proportion of antibody that remains unbound (free) at equilibrium was measured using a conventional Enzyme Linked Immunosorbant Assay (ELISA). The experimental values of K_D obtained by this method have been shown to be equivalent to those obtained by other methods (immunoprecipitation of the radiolabeled antigen and fluorescence transfer). This method offers the advantage of dealing with unmodified antigen.

Figures 8 and 9 show the Scatchard plots of the binding of the anti-human C5 monoclonal antibodies 5G1.1 and N19/8 to human C5 as measured by ELISA. In each graph (v) represents the fraction of bound antibody and (a) represents the concentration of free antigen at equilibrium. The calculated K_D for the 5G1.1 mAb was 30pM while the calculated K_D for the N19/8 mAb was 43pM. These results indicate that the K_D for the 5G1.1 and N19/8 mAb's are similar, and therefore the functional disparity between the two antibodies cannot be explained simply by the differences in affinity for the C5 antigen.

EXAMPLE 9

Effect of 5G1.1 mAb on Complement Activation During CPB

Experiments involving recirculation of human blood in an CPB circuit, as described above in Examples 4 and 5, were carried out using three doses of the 5G1.1 mAb (15mg, 7.5mg, 3.75mg) as well as controls in the absence of the 5G1.1 mAb. In five such control experiments performed in this series, C3a Fig. 10) and sC5b-9 (Fig. 11) levels increased during the first 30 min and continued to rise throughout the entire experiment. Addition of the 5G1.1 mAb to the CPB circuit had no effect on the generation of C3a in these experiments.

Conversely, addition of the two highest doses (15mg and 7.5mg) of the 5G1.1 mab completely blocked the generation of sC5b-9 in these experiments while the lowest dose (3.75mg) only partially blocked sC5b-9 generation. Hemolytic assays performed on serum samples drawn throughout the time course of these experiments revealed that total serum complement activity was not affected in control experiments (Fig. 12). In contrast, the highest dose of the 5G1.1mAb (15mg) completely blocked complement hemolytic activity, while the two lower doses (7.5mg and 3.75mg), failed to block hemolytic activity.

These results show that the 7.5mg dose effectively blocked C5b-9 generation in the CPB circuit but failed to block C5b-9-mediated hemolytic activity, suggesting that hemolytic assays alone may not accurately reflect the complement activation that occurs during CPB. These results further indicate that the 5G1.1 mAb can completely block complement activation in human blood, as measured by either criterion, at a dosage of 15mg/500ml, a dose that is approximately equivalent to a dose of 150mg for a 70kg patient.

EXAMPLE 10

Cloning of Anti-C5 Recombinant Anti-KSSKC Variable Region Genes Amino Acid Sequencing:

To determine the N-terminal amino acid sequence of the 5G1.1 mAb, a 12% acrylamide gel (37.5:1 acrylamide/N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide) was prepared and pre-electrophoresed for 45 minutes at 10 mA using 1x pre-electrophoresis buffer (123 mM bis-Tris, pH 6.6, with the cathode buffer reservoir supplemented with 1 mM reduced glutathione). The following day, the pre-electrophoresis buffer in the cathode reservoir was replaced with cathode reservoir buffer (44 mM N-tris-(hydroxymethyl)-methyl-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid, 113 mM bis-Tris, 0.1% (w/v) sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.067% (w/v) thioglycolic acid) and the pre-electrophoresis buffer in the anode reservoir was replaced with anode reservoir buffer (63 mM bis-Tris, pH 5.9).

75 µg 5G1.1 monoclonal antibody was added to Laemmli sample buffer (30 mM Tris-HCl pH 6.8, 3% (w/v) SDS, 10 mM EDTA, 0.02% (w/v) bromophenol blue, 5% (v/v) glycerol, 2.5% (v/v) beta-mercaptoethanol) and electrophoresed at 10 mA until the bromophenol blue tracking dye reached the bottom of the gel. The protein was transferred to a PROBLOTT membrane (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) using 1X transfer buffer (10 mM cyclohexylaminopropane sulfonic acid, 0.05% (w/v) dithiothreitol, 15% (v/v) methanol) at 50 V for one hour.

Protein bands were localized by staining with 0.2% Ponceau S (in 3% trichloroacetic acid, 3% sulfosalicylic acid) followed by destaining with water. Bands were excised and subjected to amino acid sequence analysis using Edman chemistry performed on a pulsed liquid protein sequencer (ABI model 477A), with the PTH amino acids thereby obtained being analyzed with an on-line microbore HPLC system (ABI model 120A).

To deblock the amino terminus of the 5G1.1 heavy chain, 10 mg 5G1.1 monoclonal antibody was exchanged into reducing buffer (5 M guanidine-HCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl, 10 mM dithiothreitol, pH 8.5) using a PD-10 column (Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ). After a one hour incubation at room temperature, 50 mM iodoacetamide was

added and the incubation allowed to continue for 30 minutes. The carbamidomethylated light and heavy chains thus obtained were separated by size exclusion chromatography on a SUPEROSE 12 (Pharmacia) column equilibrated with 5 M guanidine-HCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.5. The carbamidomethylated heavy chain was exchanged into 50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.0 using a PD-10 column, subjected to digestion with pyroglutamate aminopeptidase (PanVera, Madison, WI; 0.5 mU per nmol of heavy chain protein), and sequenced as described above.

For determination of internal amino acid sequence, the carbamidomethylated 5G1.1 light chain was exchanged into 2 M urea, 25 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0 and incubated with endoproteinase Lys-C (Promega, Madison, WI; protease:protein ratio of 1:40) at 37°C overnight. The digested material was run on a C18 reversed phase HPLC column (Beckman Instruments, Fullerton, CA) and eluted using a linear 0-50% acetonitrile gradient in 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid. Peaks were subjected to amino acid sequence analysis as described above.

PCR Cloning:

Cloning of the 5G1.1 variable heavy region was performed using a set of commercially available primers (Mouse Ig-PRIMER SET, catalogue number 69831-1, Novagen, Madison, WI). Total RNA was isolated from 5G1.1 hybridoma cells using the acid/guanidinium thiocyanate technique (Chomczynski and Sacchi, Anal. Biochem. 1987, 162:156-159). For first strand cDNA synthesis, ten micrograms total RNA were denatured at 65°C for 5 min., chilled on ice, and added to a 100 µl reaction containing 10 mM Tris pH 8.3, 50 mM KCl, 1.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 10 mM dithiothreitol, 250 µM each dNTP, 20 units AMV reverse transcriptase (Seikagaku America, Rockville, MD), and 10 pmole of the appropriate 3' primer (as described in the Ig-PRIMER SET kit protocol). After incubation at 37°C for one hour, five microliters of the cDNA synthesis reaction were added to a 100 microliter PCR reaction containing: 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 9.0 at 25°C, 50 mM KCl, 1.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.1% (w/v) gelatin, 1.0% (v/v) Triton X-100, 200 µM each

dNTP, 2.5 U AMPLITAQ DNA polymerase (Perkin-Elmer-Cetus, Norwalk, CT) and 25 pmoles of the appropriate 5′ and 3′ primers (as described in the Ig-PRIMER SET kit protocol). The reaction conditions were 1 minute at 95°C, 1 minute at 42°C, and 1 minute at 72°C for 30 cycles, followed by a final extension at 72°C for 10 minutes.

PCR products having the expected size (approximately 450 bp) were cloned into the vector pCRII (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA) using a T/A cloning kit (Invitrogen). DNA sequence analysis of cloned DNA fragments was performed by the dideoxy chain-termination method using double-stranded plasmid DNA as a template. A unique heavy chain variable region was isolated by this procedure, with the resulting plasmid designated p5G1.1 VH 2-1-3. Several clones obtained from independent replicate PCR reactions were sequenced to detect any mutations introduced during the PCR amplification of this variable region.

To clone the 5G1.1 light chain variable region, PCR primers were designed by using the UWGCG program TFASTA (University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI) to search the GenBank rodent subdirectory with the 19mer query amino acid sequence Ile Gln Met Thr Gln Ser Pro Ala Ser Leu Ser Ala Ser Val Gly Glu Thr Val Thr, that was obtained by amino acid sequencing as described above. An exact match to this sequence was located in the murine germline gene encoding the v-kappa k2 variable region (Seidman et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 1978 75:3881-3885). The DNA sequence of this germline gene was used to design the oligonucleotide UDEC690 (SEQ ID NO:5) for use as a variable region 5′-primer. A murine kappa gene constant region primer, UDEC395 (SEQ ID NO:6) was also synthesized and used in this reaction. Cloning of the 5G1.1 variable light region was performed using the UDEC690 variable region 5′-primer and the UDEC395 murine kappa gene constant region primer.

PolyA mRNA was isolated from hybridoma 5G1.1. The acid/guanidinium thiocyanate procedure (Chomczynski and Sacchi, *supra*) was used to isolate total RNA, and was followed by oligo(dT)-cellulose chromatography of 1 mg of total RNA. For

first strand cDNA synthesis, one microliter of the 25 microliters of oligo(dT)-cellulose eluate (containing approximately 2 micrograms of purified 5G1.1 mRNA) was denatured at 65°C for 5 min., chilled on ice, and incubated in extension buffer (10 mM Tris pH 8.3, 50 mM KCl, 1 mM dithithreitol, 240 µM each dNTP) containing 100 nM UDEC395 (SEQ ID NO:6) and 25 units AMV reverse transcriptase (Seikagaku America, Rockville, MD) at 42°C for one hour. Five microliters of the completed first strand reaction was subjected to PCR amplification using amplification buffer supplemented with 2.5 units AMPLITAQ DNA polymerase (Perkin Elmer, Foster City, CA) and 500 nM each of primer UDEC690 (SEQ ID NO:5) and UDEC395 (SEQ ID NO:6). Amplification was performed using 30 cycles each consisting of 1 minute at 95°C, 1 minute at 52°C, and 1 minute at 72°C, followed by a single ten minute incubation at 72°C.

The resulting PCR product was purified using GENECLEAN according to the manufacturer's directions (Bio 101, La Jolla, CA), digested with *Sse*8387 I and *Hin*d III, gel purified, and ligated into the vector Bluescript II SK+ (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA). Ligated plasmids were transformed into the bacterial strain DH10B by electroporation.

Plasmid DNA was purified from cultures of transformed bacteria by conventional methods including column chromatography using a QUIAGEN-TIP-500 column according to the manufacturer's directions (Quiagen, Chatsworth, CA) and sequenced by the Sanger dideoxy chain termination method using SEQUENASE enzyme (U.S. Biochemical, Cleveland, OH). Clones obtained from a second independent PCR reaction verified that no mutations were introduced during the amplification process. The resulting plasmid containing the cloned variable region was designated SK (+) 690/395. This light chain encoding insert in this plasmid coded for both the N-terminal and internal light chain sequences determined by amino acid sequencing of 5G1.1, as described above.

EXAMPLE 11

Construction and Expression of Recombinant mAbs

Recombinant DNA constructions encoding the recombinant mAbs comprising the 5G1.1 CDRs are prepared by conventional recombinant DNA methods including restriction fragment subcloning and overlapping PCR procedures. The resulting recombinant mAb-encoding DNAs include:

(1) one encoding a non-humanized (murine) scFv designated 5G1.1M1 scFv (SEQ ID NO:7), wherein CDR L1 is amino acid residues 28-34 of SEQ ID NO:7, CDR L2 is amino acid residues 52-54 of SEQ ID NO:7, CDR L3 is amino acid residues 93-98 of SEQ ID NO:7, CDR H1 is amino acid residues 156-159 of SEQ ID NO:7, CDR H2 is amino acid residues 179-183 of SEQ ID NO:7, and CDR H3 is amino acid residues 226-236 of SEQ ID NO:7;

(2) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted) scFv designated 5G1.1 scFv CB (SEQ ID NO:8), wherein CDR L1 is amino acid residues 26-36 of SEQ ID NO:8, CDR L2 is amino acid residues 52-58 of SEQ ID NO:8, CDR L3 is amino acid residues 91-99 of SEQ ID NO:8, CDR H1 is amino acid residues 152-161 of SEQ ID NO:8, CDR H2 is amino acid residues 176-192 of SEQ ID NO:8, H3 is amino acid residues 225-237 of SEQ ID NO:8;

(3) one encoding a chimeric light chain (which can form the light chain portion of an Fab) designated 5G1.1M1 VL HuK (SEQ ID NO:9);

(4) one encoding a chimeric Fd (the heavy chain portion of an Fab) designated 5G1.1M1 VH HuG1 (SEQ ID NO:10);

(5) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted and framework sequence altered) Fd designated 5G1.1 VH + IGHRL (SEQ ID NO:11), wherein CDR H1 is amino acid residues 26-35 of SEQ ID NO:11, CDR H2 is amino acid residues 50-60 of SEQ ID NO:11, and CDR H3 is amino acid residues 99-111 of SEQ ID NO:11;

(6) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted, not framework altered) Fd designated 5G1.1 VH + IGHRLC (SEQ ID NO:12), CDR H1 is amino acid residues 26-35 of SEQ ID NO:12, CDR H2 is amino acid residues 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:12, and CDR H3 is amino acid residues 99-111 of SEQ ID NO:12;

(7) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted and framework sequence altered) light chain designated 5G1.1 VL + KLV56 (SEQ ID NO:13), wherein CDR L1 is amino acid residues 26-36 of SEQ ID NO:13, CDR L2 is amino acid residues 52-58 of SEQ ID NO:13, and CDR L3 is amino acid residues 91-99 of SEQ ID NO:13;

(8) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted, not framework altered) light chain designated 5G1.1 VL + KLV56B (SEQ ID NO:14), wherein CDR L1 is amino acid residues 26-36 of SEQ ID NO:14, CDR L2 is amino acid residues 52-58 of SEQ ID NO:14, and CDR L3 is amino acid residues 91-99 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(9) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted, not framework altered) light chain designated 5G1.1 VL + 012 (SEQ ID NO:15), wherein CDR L1 is amino acid residues 24-34 of SEQ ID NO:15, CDR L2 is amino acid residues 50-56 of SEQ ID NO:15, and CDR L3 is amino acid residues 89-97 of SEQ ID NO:15; and

(10) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted, not framework altered) Fd designated 5G1.1 VH + IGHRLD (SEQ ID NO:16), wherein CDR H1 is amino acid residues 26-35 of SEQ ID NO:16, CDR H2 is amino acid residues 50-60 of SEQ ID NO:16, and CDR H3 is amino acid residues 99-111 of SEQ ID NO:16.

(11) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted) scFv designated 5G1.1 scFv DO12 (SEQ ID NO:17), wherein CDR L1 is amino acid residues 26-36 of SEQ ID NO:17, CDR L2 is amino acid residues 52-58 of SEQ ID NO:17, CDR L3 is amino acid residues 91-99 of SEQ ID NO:17, CDR H1 is amino acid residues 152-161 of SEQ ID NO:17, CDR H2 is amino acid residues 176-186 of SEQ ID NO:17, and CDR H3 is amino acid residues 225-237 of SEQ ID NO:17;

(12) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted and framework sequence altered) scFv designated 5G1.1 scFv CO12 (SEQ ID NO:20), wherein CDR L1 is amino acid residues 26-36 of SEQ ID NO:20, CDR L2 is amino acid residues 52-58 of SEQ ID NO:20, CDR L3 is amino acid residues 91-99 of SEQ ID NO:20, CDR H1 is amino acid residues 152-161 of SEQ ID NO:20, CDR H2 is amino acid residues 176-192 of SEQ ID NO:20, H3 is amino acid residues 225-237 of SEQ ID NO:20;

(13) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted) scFv designated

5G1.1 scFv DO12B (SEQ ID NO:21), wherein CDR L1 is amino acid residues 26-36 of SEQ ID NO:21, CDR L2 is amino acid residues 52-58 of SEQ ID NO:21, CDR L3 is amino acid residues 91-99 of SEQ ID NO:21, CDR H1 is amino acid residues 152-161 of SEQ ID NO:21, CDR H2 is amino acid residues 176-192 of SEQ ID NO:21, H3 is amino acid residues 225-237 of SEQ ID NO:21;

(14) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted) scFv designated 5G1.1 scFv DO12C (SEQ ID NO:22), wherein CDR L1 is amino acid residues 26-36 of SEQ ID NO:22, CDR L2 is amino acid residues 52-58 of SEQ ID NO:22, CDR L3 is amino acid residues 91-99 of SEQ ID NO:22, CDR H1 is amino acid residues 152-161 of SEQ ID NO:22, CDR H2 is amino acid residues 176-192 of SEQ ID NO:22, H3 is amino acid residues 225-237 of SEQ ID NO:22;

(15) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted) scFv designated 5G1.1 scFv DO12D (SEQ ID NO:23), wherein CDR L1 is amino acid residues 26-36 of SEQ ID NO:23, CDR L2 is amino acid residues 52-58 of SEQ ID NO:23, CDR L3 is amino acid residues 91-99 of SEQ ID NO:23, CDR H1 is amino acid residues 152-161 of SEQ ID NO:23, CDR H2 is amino acid residues 176-192 of SEQ ID NO:23, H3 is amino acid residues 225-237 of SEQ ID NO:23;

(16) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted and framework sequence altered) scFv designated 5G1.1 scFv CO13 (SEQ ID NO:24), wherein CDR L1 is amino acid residues 26-36 of SEQ ID NO:24, CDR L2 is amino acid residues 52-58 of SEQ ID NO:24, CDR L3 is amino acid residues 91-99 of SEQ ID NO:24, CDR H1 is amino acid residues 152-161 of SEQ ID NO:24, CDR H2 is amino acid residues 176-192 of SEQ ID NO:24, H3 is amino acid residues 225-237 of SEQ ID NO:24;

(17) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted and framework sequence altered) scFv designated 5G1.1 scFv CO14 (SEQ ID NO:25), wherein CDR L1 is amino acid residues 26-36 of SEQ ID NO:25, CDR L2 is amino acid residues 52-58 of SEQ ID NO:25, CDR L3 is amino acid residues 91-99 of SEQ ID NO:25, CDR H1 is amino acid residues 152-161 of SEQ ID NO:25, CDR H2 is amino acid residues 176-192 of SEQ ID NO:25, H3 is amino acid residues 225-237 of SEQ ID NO:25;

(18) one encoding a humanized (CDR grafted and framework sequence altered) scFv designated 5G1.1 scFv CO15 (SEQ ID NO:26), wherein CDR L1 is amino acid residues 26-36 of SEQ ID NO:26, CDR L2 is amino acid residues 52-58 of SEQ ID NO:26, CDR L3 is amino acid residues 91-99 of SEQ ID NO:26, CDR H1 is amino acid residues 152-161 of SEQ ID NO:26, CDR H2 is amino acid residues 176-192 of SEQ ID NO:26, H3 is amino acid residues 225-237 of SEQ ID NO:26;

In accordance with the invention, one each of the various L1, L2 and L3 CDRs discussed in (1) to (18) above may be combined with any of the other light chain CDRs so as to make a set of 3 light chain CDRs comprising one L1, one L2, and one L3 CDR, as part of a recombinant antibody or synthetic peptide antibody (i.e., a synthetic peptide with the sequence of a recombinant peptide of the invention). Furthermore, the framework regions (i.e., the regions not included in the CDRs as described for each) of each of (1) to (18) above may be interchanged with homologous framework regions of the other recombinant antibody molecules of (1) to (18) to produce other antibodies of the invention.

In accordance with the invention, one each of the various H1, H2 and H3 CDRs discussed in (1) to (18) above may be combined with any of the other light chain CDRs so as to make a set of 3 light chain CDRs comprising one H1, one H2, and one H3 CDR, as part of a recombinant antibody or synthetic peptide antibody (i.e., a synthetic peptide with the sequence of a recombinant peptide of the invention).

In accordance with the invention, matched pairs of the variable regions (e.g., a VL and a VH region) of the various antibody molecules, Fds, and light chains described above may be combined with constant region domains by recombinant DNA or other methods known in the art to form full length antibodies of the invention. Particularly preferred constant regions for this purpose are IgG constant regions, which may be unaltered, or constructed of a mixture of constant domains from IgGs of various subtypes, e.g., IgG1 and IgG 4.

Matched pairs of the Fd and light chain encoding DNAs described immediately above -- i.e. (3) and (4), (5) and (7), (6) and (8), and (6) and (9) -- were subcloned together into the APEX-3P vector, essentially as described below in Example 15 for N19/8. The scFv constructs of (1) and (2) were subcloned into pET Trc SO5/NI using conventional techniques.

Plasmids so obtained were introduced by into the bacterial strain ME2 (pET plasmids) by conventional electroporation, or into human 293 EBNA cells (APEX plasmids) by lipofection using 2-3 microliters of TRANSFECTAM reagent (Promega, Madison, WI) per microgram of DNA according to the manufacturer's directions. Bacterial strains ME1 and ME2 are derivatives of *Escherichia coli* strain W3110 (ATCC designation 27325) prepared as follows.

Preparation of W3110 Derivatives ME1 and ME2:

The non-humanized, non-chimeric murine 5G1.1-scFv "m5G1.1-scFv" -- made up of light chain (3) and Fd (4) -- was expressed in a derivative of *E. coli* K12 strain W3110. This derivative was prepared by inactivating an uncharacterized gene to provide protection against infections by a lytic bacteriophage. *E. coli* strain W3110 is a particularly preferred strain because it is fully characterized and is commonly used for recombinant DNA product fermentations.

A single colony of *E. coli* strain W3110 was grown overnight in L medium at 30°C. The cells were collected by centrifugation and resuspended in 10 mM $MgSO_4$. A total of 0.1 ml of the culture was added to 2.5 ml 0.7% L soft agar at 45°C and quickly poured on an L plate. Fifty microliter aliquots of a plaque purified phage lysate, undiluted, diluted 10^{-2} and diluted 10^{-4}, were spotted onto the agar surface. Phage lysates had previously been filtered through 0.45 µm membranes and stored in sterile tubes with a drop of chloroform at 4°C. The spots were allowed to dry on the soft agar surface and incubated overnight at 37°C.

The next day L plates were spread with 10^9 phage PFU and allowed to dry. Using a sterile, flat toothpick, cells from isolated colonies growing in the zones of phage lysis on the spot plates were streaked for single colonies on the plates

spread with 10^9 phage PFU and incubated overnight at 37°C. Single colonies were rechecked for phage resistance by cross-streaking after single colony purification. The cross streak test for phage sensitivity was performed as follows. Fifty µl of phage (10^8 pfu/ml) was spread in a vertical line in the left hand portion of the plate using a Pasteur pipette. Additional phage were tested parallel to the first and to the right. The plate was allowed to dry, and strains to be checked for sensitivity or resistance were spread perpendicular to and across the lines of all phages in a single swath from the left to the right. Resistant strains grow in the area of the phage streaks while sensitive strains lyse.

The phage resistant mutant strain ME1 was tested for phage production after overnight growth in L medium and treatment with the DNA damaging agent, mitomycin C. The strain failed to produce viable phage utilizing a standard plaque assay and *E. coli* W3110 as the phage sensitive indicator strain. These results suggest that strain ME1 does not harbor a resident prophage.

Strain ME2 was constructed by site specific integration of the lambdaDE3 prophage (Studier et al. 1990, Meth. Enzymol. 185:60-89) into the ME1 chromosome. Expression of the T7 RNA polymerase, directed by the prophage, allows expression of target genes cloned into pET vectors (Studier et al.,*supra*) under the control of the T7 promoter in the lysogenized host. Lysogenization was accomplished in a three way infection with lambdaDE3, the lambda helper phage, lambdaB10 and the selection phage, lambdaB482 (Studier et al., *supra*).

lambdaDE3 (*imm*21) was constructed by Studier and colleagues (1990, Meth. Enzymol. 185:60-89) by inserting the T7 RNA polymerase gene behind the *E. coli lacUV5* promoter into the *Bam*HI cloning site of lambdaD69(*imm*21). Since cloning into the *Bam*HI site of lambdaD69 interrupts the integrase gene, lambdaDE3 cannot integrate or excise from the chromosome by itself. The helper phage lambdaB10 provides the integrase function that lambdaDE3 lacks but cannot form a lysogen by itself. The

selection phage, lambdaB482, lyses any lambdaDE3 host range mutants that otherwise would be among the surviving cells, but it can neither integrate into susceptible cells nor lyse lambdaDE3 lysogens since it has the same immunity region as lambdaDE3 (*imm*21).

Lysogenization protocol:

Strain ME1 was grown in L medium supplemented with 0.2% maltose and 10 mM $MgSO_4$ at 37°C to a density of approximately 10^8 cells/ml. One µl of ME1 cells were incubated with 2 x 10^8 plaque forming units (pfu) of lambdaDE3 and 10^8 pfu of lambdaB10 and lambdaB482. The host/phage mixture was incubated at 37°C for 20 min to allow phage adsorption to ME1 cells. Several dilutions of the cell/phage suspension were spread on L plates to produce plates containing approximately 30-200 candidate lysogens as isolated colonies. The plates were inverted and incubated at 37°C overnight. Several isolated colonies were screened for the acquisition of the lambdaDE3 prophage as described below.

Verification of lambdaDE3 lysogens:

lambdaDE3 lysogen candidates were tested for their ability to support the growth of the T7 phage 4107, a T7 phage deletion mutant that is completely defective unless active T7 RNA polymerase is provided in *trans*. Only lambdaDE3 lysogens will support the normal growth of the phage in the presence of IPTG (isopropyl-beta-thiogalactopyranoside). The T7 phage produces very large plaques on lambdaDE3 lysogens in the presence of IPTG, while very small plaques are observed in the absence of inducer. The size of the plaque in the absence of IPTG is an indication of the basal level of T7 RNA polymerase expression in the lysogen. Putative lambdaDE3 lysogens were grown in L broth supplemented with 0.2 % maltose and 10 mM $MgSO_4$ at 37°C to a cell density of approximately 10^8 cells/ml. A total of 0.5 ml of cells was centrifuged and the pellet was resuspended in 0.2 ml of a T7 phage lysate containing 2 x 10^4 pfu. The phage was allowed to adsorb for 30 min at 37°C. One-half of suspension (0.1 ml) was added to 3.0 ml of molten top agarose at 47°C and

poured onto L plates. The remaining aliquot of cell/phage suspension was poured onto an L plate supplemented with 0.4 mM IPTG to check for induction of T7 RNA polymerase. The plates were inverted and incubated at 37°C overnight.

Strains were also tested for the presence of the lambdaDE3 lysogen by demonstrating that each strain was resistant to infection by the phage lambdaB482, which is in the same immunity group (*imm*21), by the cross streak method described above. A lysogen was chosen with a low basal expression level for protein production from pET vectors. The resulting strain, designated ME2, is phage resistant and overexpresses T7 RNA polymerase in the presence of IPTG.

Purification of Humanized 5G1.1-scFv from E. coli:

The humanized 5G1.1-scFv (h5G1.1-scFv) cDNA construct was cloned into the bacterial expression plasmid pET Trc SO5/NI (SEQ ID NO:18) and transformed into E. coli strain ME1. The resulting strain expressing h5G1.1 scFv was grown at 37°C in 2 liter Applikon glass vessel fermentors containing Terrific Broth (1.2 % (w/v) bacto-tryptone, 2.4% (w/v) bacto-yeast extract, 0.4% (v/v) glycerol, 90 mM KPO_4, pH 7.0) supplemented with 100 µg/ml ampicillin. The production of recombinant scFv was induced by the addition of 1 mM IPTG when the $O.D._{550}$ of the culture reached 10. After an additional 3 h incubation at 37°C, the cells were harvested by centrifugation and the cell pellets stored at -80°C.

Cells were resuspended in 1 mM EDTA, pH 5.0 at 10 ml per gram weight and lysed by a single pass through a microfluidizer (Model M110T, Microfluidics Corp., Newton, MA). After centrifugation at 17,500 x g for 15 min, the resulting inclusion body pellet was washed by resuspension in 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, 100 mM NaCl, 0.15% (w/v) deoxycholate at 10 ml per gram inclusion body using a Tekmar POLYTRON. The inclusion bodies were again pelleted by centrifugation at 17,500 x g for 15 min and resuspended in 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 9.0, 8 M urea at 10 ml per g. After stirring for 1 h, the sample was centrifuged at

14,000 x g for 30 min to pellet remaining insoluble material. The extract supernatant was diluted 10-fold with 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 9.0, 7 M urea, 50 µM cupric sulfate and allowed to stir for at least 16 hours at 4°C to refold the scFv. After addition of Biocryl BPA-1000 (TosoHaas, Montgomeryville, PA) as a flocculating agent at 3 µl per ml, the sample was centrifuged at 15,000 x g for 10 minutes to remove insoluble material. The refolding mixture was exchanged into 20 mM Tris, pH 9.0, 1mM EDTA by diafiltration and concentrated by ultrafiltration using a stirred cell fitted with a YM10 membrane (Amicon, Beverly, MA).

In subsequent experiments, other refolding conditions were tested. Thawed bacterial cells were resuspended with a POLYTRON homogenizer in 1mM EDTA at 2.5 mL per gram of cells, passed through the MICROFLUIDIZER at 18,000 psi, and centrifuged at 10,000 RPM for 15 min in a Beckman JA-10 rotor, the resulting pellet was washed by resuspension in 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, 100 mM NaCl, 0.15% (w/v) deoxycholate at 10 ml per gram inclusion body using a Tekmar POLYTRON. The inclusion bodies were again pelleted by centrifugation. The pellet from this centrifugation was resuspended with a POLYTRON homogenizer in 8M urea, 20mM Tris pH9 at 10 mL per gram of pellet. After stirring for 1 hour at 4 degrees C, the resuspended pellet was diluted with 9 volumes of 7M urea, 20mM Tris pH9. Cupric sulfate was then added to various final concentrations (0, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 100, 150, and 200 µM) before incubation overnight at 4 degrees C with stirring. The use of 5 µM copper was found to give the highest levels of refolding of the humanized 5G1.1-scFv as assessed by analytical HPLC.

In the initial experiments, the properly refolded scFv was then separated from aggregated material and contaminating proteins by anion exchange chromatography using Q Sepharose Fast Flow (Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ). Bound scFv was eluted with 20 mM Tris-HCL pH 9.0, 1 mM EDTA containing a linear NaCl gradient (0 to 0.5 M). The fractions containing the scFv were combined, concentrated by ultrafiltration using a stirred cell fitted with

a YM10 membrane, and applied to a Sephacryl S200 HR 26/100 gel filtration column (Pharmacia) equilibrated in 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 9.0, 1 mM EDTA, 150 mM NaCl. Fractions containing the scFv were combined, exchanged into phosphate-buffered saline by diafiltration, concentrated by ultrafiltration, filtered through a 0.22 μm Millex-GV filter (Millipore, Bedford, MA), and stored at 4C.

Subsequent experiments have indicated that cation exchange chromatography (e.g., using POROS HS resin -- PerSeptive Biosystems, Cambridge, MA) should give better yields than the Q Sepharose Fast Flow anion exchange chromatography step described in the preceding paragraph. In addition, it would be preferable to carry out the final gel filtration chromatography in a buffer that is more pharmaceutically acceptable than the Tris buffer described. A buffer such as PBS would be preferred if it does not interfere with the efficacy of the gel filtration chromatographic separation. This would reduce any trace amounts of Tris remaining in the preparation after diafiltration, and might eliminate the need for the diafiltration step.

Purification of m5G1.1-scFv from E. coli:

Frozen bacterial cell paste was thawed and resuspended in 2.5 ml of 1 mM EDTA (pH 5) per gram of cell paste. This suspension of cells was lysed by passage through a Microfluidizer (Microfluidics) with the interaction chamber in line and a backpressure of approximately 18000 psi. The cell lysate was then centrifuged at 10,000 rpm in a JA-10 centrifuge rotor at 4°C for 15 min. The supernatant was decanted and discarded.

The pellet was resuspended in 10 ml of 20 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 0.15% sodium deoxycholate per gram of pellet. This suspension was centrifuged as above for 10 min. Again the supernatant was decanted and discarded. This detergent washed pellet was then resuspended in 10 ml of 8 M urea, 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 9 (1 mM EDTA may also be added to this buffer, but has the effect of increasing the time required to achieve a particular level of refolding). The suspension was stirred at

4°C for 1 hr. and was then diluted 10 fold with 7 M urea, 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 9 and stirred at 4°C. $CuSO_4$ was then added to a final concentration of 50 µM and stirring was continued overnight at 4°C.

The majority of contaminating proteins (including incorrectly folded versions of m5G1.1 scFv) were then removed by precipitation by diluting (with stirring) the refolded sample five fold with buffer such that the final concentrations after dilution were 1.4 M urea, 25 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, and 20 mM sodium acetate at 4°C. The pH of the dilution buffer when prepared at room temperature was pH 5.0. Prior to dilution the pH of the dilution buffer is determined at 4°C. After the dilution the pH of the sample was greater than pH 5.5. The pH of the sample was then adjusted with 6. N HCl to the initial pH 5.0 of the buffer at 4°C. The solution immediately became cloudy and it was left stirring at 4-8°C for 0.5 to 24 hours.

The precipitate was removed by filtering the sample through a 300 kDa cut-off ultrafiltration membrane (Millipore Corporation, Bedford, MA). The permeate was collected and concentrated 5 fold using a 10 kDa cutoff ultrafiltration membrane (Millipore). This concentrated retentate was then diluted 2 fold with 20 mM sodium acetate, 1 mM EDTA, pH 5.0 in order to lower the NaCl concentration to 12.5 mM.

Sub M12 The diluted retentate was then loaded at 4°C onto a SP Sepharose FF column (Pharmacia) equilibrated in 0.7 M urea, 1 mM EDTA, 10 mM NaCl, 20 mM sodium acetate, pH 5.0, at a linear flowrate of 5 cm/min. Bed height was equal to or greater than 3.5 cm. Following loading the column was washed with 40 column volumes (CV) of equilibration buffer. The column was then washed with 20 CV of 20 mM sodium acetate, pH 5.0, 1 mM EDTA. The bound scFv was then eluted using 20 mM sodium citrate, pH 5.8, 1 mM EDTA. A single peak was collected in approximately 4 column volumes.

Sub M13 The SP Sepharose eluate was then adjusted to 20 mM Tris-HCl by addition of 1 M Tris-HCl, pH 8. The pH of the sample was adjusted to 8.0 by addition of 1 N NaOH. This sample was loaded

onto a Q Sepharose FF column (Pharmacia) equilibrated in 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA at room temperature at a flowrate of 5 cm/min. The flow through fraction containing the scFv was collected.

The Q Sepharose flow through fraction was then adjusted to 150 mM NaCl and concentrated to 10 mg of scFv per ml using a 10 kDa cutoff ultrafiltration membrane. This concentrated sample was then loaded onto a Sephacryl S200 column equilibrated in phosphate buffered saline, pH 7.4 and eluted at 0.4 cm/min. The fractions were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and silver staining. Peak fractions were combined after discarding the front and back shoulder fractions that contained the majority of contaminants.

EXAMPLE 12

Functional Analysis of the m5G1.1 scFv

Titration of the m5G1.1 scFv in hemolytic assays revealed that the m5G1.1 scFv inhibited human complement-mediated lysis in a dose dependent fashion (Fig. 13). Direct comparison of the efficacy of the m5G1.1 scFv to the 5G1.1mAb and Fab demonstrated that the m5G1.1 scFv completely blocked C5b-9-mediated hemolysis in 20% human serum at 0.15μM while the 5G1.1 mAb and Fab blocked at 0.06-0.08μM. Analysis of C5a generation in these assays revealed similar results in that the 5G1.1 scFv completely blocked C5a generation at 0.15μM while the 5G1.1 mAb and Fab blocked at 0.06-0.08μM (Fig. 14). Taken together these experiments indicated that unlike N19/8, which lost half of its effectiveness at blocking C5a generation upon being engineered as an scFv (SEQ ID NO:19), the 5G1.1 murine scFv retained the capacity to block the generation of both C5a and C5b-9.

Additionally, these data demonstrate that the m5G1.1 scFv retained similar activity to that of the parent molecule (the native murine 5G1.1 mAb) in that the molar concentration of 5G1.1 murine scFv required to completely block C5a and C5b-9 (0.15μM) was within two-fold of that required for the 5G1.1 mAb and Fab (0.06-0.08μM).

In order to determine whether the m5G1.1 scFv retained the capacity to block the activation of complement in the *ex vivo*

model of cardiopulmonary bypass, 4.5mg of the purified bacterially produced 5G1.1 murine scFv was added to the CPB circuit and complement activation was monitored. In control experiments, both C3a and C5b-9 levels increased throughout the time course of the experiment. In a single experiment, addition of 4.5mg of the m5G1.1 scFv to the CPB circuit had no effect on the generation of C3a (Fig. 15). Conversely, complement hemolytic activity as well as the generation of sC5b-9 was completely blocked in this experiment (Fig. 16 and Fig. 17).

Example 13

Characterization of the Epitope Recognized by 5G1.1

Tryptic digestion: Twenty micrograms of purified human C5 (Advanced Technologies, San Diego, CA) was subjected to enzymatic digestion with 1 µg of TPCK-treated trypsin (Worthington Biochemical Corp., Freehold, NJ). The digestion was allowed to continue for 3 minutes, after which time it was stopped by the addition of 20 µg soy bean trypsin inhibitor (Worthington). The reaction was then denatured and reduced by the addition of protein sample buffer and immediately boiled for 5 min. The digested fragments were size fractionated through a SDS-PAGE on a 12 % gel. The gel was then electroblotted in transfer buffer (20% (v/v) methanol, 25 mM Tris-base pH 8.0, and 192 mM glycine) to nitrocellulose (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA) and subjected to ECL western blot analysis using either 5G1.1 or a C5a specific monoclonal antibody (G25/2, obtained from Dr. Otto Götze, Department of Immunology, University of Göttingen, Germany).

The filters were incubated twice for 30 minutes each in blocking solution (500 mM NaCl, 5 mM Tris pH 7.4, 10% (v/v) nonfat dry milk, and 0.2% (v/v) Tween-20). The filters were then changed to fresh blocking solution (20 ml) containing the primary antibody and incubated for 40 minutes on a rocking platform. The filters were rinsed briefly with washing solution (500 mM NaCl, 35 mM Tris pH7.4, 0.1% SDS, 1% NP40, and 0.5% deoxycholic acid) to remove any milk, and then fresh wash solution was added and incubated for two 20 minute intervals on

an orbiting shaker. The filters were rinsed briefly with 10 to 20 mls of secondary antibody solution (500 mM NaCl, 5 mM Tris pH 7.4, 10% (v/v) Nonfat dry milk, 0.2% (v/v) Tween-20, and 1% NP-40) and then incubated with fresh secondary antibody solution containing a 1:2000 dilution of HRP conjugated goat anti-mouse for 20 minutes on a rocking platform. The filters were then washed as described above, incubated in ECL reagent (Amersham Corp., Arlington Heights, IL) for 1 minute and then exposed to ECL Hyperfilm (Amersham).

Acid Hydrolysis: Twenty micrograms of purified human C5 (Advanced Technologies) was subjected to hydrolysis in 1N acetic acid. The 20 µg of human C5 (1µg/µl) was added to 20 µl of 2N acetic acid and incubated for 10 min at 100°C. The sample was denatured and reduced with protein sample buffer, also at 100°C, for 5 minutes. The acid was neutralized by dropwise addition of a saturated tris base solution until the sample turned blue. The cleavage products were then size fractionated by SDS-PAGE and western blotted as described above. For N-terminal sequencing, the gel fractionated acid hydrolysate was transferred to PVDF membrane. N-terminal sequence was obtained by excising the 46 kDa acid hydrolysis fragment band from a PVDF membrane and subjecting it to amino acid sequence analysis as discussed above in Example 10.

Deglycosylation: Reduced and denatured acid hydrolyzed or tryptic fragments of human C5 were subjected to deglycosylation with N-Glycosidase F (Peptide-N-Glycosidase F, Boehringer Mannheim Corp., Indianapolis, IN) according to the manufacture's directions.

Results: Acid hydrolysis of human C5 yielded a fragment with an apparent molecular weight by SDS-PAGE of 46 kDa that was immunoreactive for both the anti-C5a mAb G25/2 and the anti-C5 alpha chain mAb 5G1.1. Western blots probed with both antibodies simultaneously, as well as silver stain SDS-PAGE analysis, confirmed the presence of a single 46 kDa fragment that was immunoreactive with both antibodies. The presence of a single immunoreactive fragment containing binding sites for both

5G1.1 and G25/2 strongly suggested that the 5G1.1 epitope was contained within approximately the first 46 kDa of the N-terminus of the alpha chain of C5.

As discussed above in the description of the complement system under the heading "Background Physiology & Pathology," a compound (e.g., an antibody) that binds to a site at or immediately adjacent to the C5a cleavage site would have the potential to act as a terminal complement inhibitor. The potential inhibitory activity of antibodies binding to this site led to the expectation that the C5 alpha chain-binding 5G1.1 antibody would bind to an epitope at or near the C5a cleavage site. The finding that 5G1.1 bound to the 46 kDa acid hydrolysis fragment of C5 lent support to this expectation.

Western blot analysis of the tryptic digestion products identified one proteolytic fragment migrating at approximately 27 kDa that was immunoreactive with 5G1.1. Likewise, one immunoreactive proteolytic fragment migrating at approximately 29 kDa was observed following western blot analysis with the anti-C5a mAb G25/2. Experiments in which a blot was simultaneously probed with both 5G1.1 and G25/2 demonstrated that each band was distinct and that their apparent differential mobility was not a gel anomaly. This was surprising, because the 5G1.1 mAb was thought likely to bind to the C5 convertase cleavage site. 5G1.1 was thus expected to be immunoreactive with any fragment of C5 of over 12 kDa that exhibited immunoreactivity with G25/2. Such a fragment would contain enough of the extreme amino terminus of the C5 alpha chain to bind specifically to the anti-C5a mAb, and enough beyond that to encompass a region including and extending beyond the C5 convertase cleavage site.

The immunoreactivity of G25/2 with the 29 kDa fragment indicated that that fragment contains the N-terminal region of the alpha chain of C5 that is cleaved off to yield C5a. Furthermore, because 5G1.1 was not immunoreactive with this band, the 5G1.1 epitope was not likely to be contained within approximately the first 29 kDa of the N-terminus of the alpha

chain of C5, and therefore could not be located near the C5 convertase cleavage site.

These tryptic digestion and acid hydrolysis mapping data suggested that the 5G1.1 epitope was contained within a region starting about 29 kDa (including post-translational modifications) from the N-terminus of the alpha chain of C5 and continuing 17 kDa in a C-terminal direction, i.e., ending 46 kDa from the N-terminus, a surprising finding in view of the expectation, discussed above, that the antibody would bind at or immediately adjacent to the point at which C5a is cleaved off of the C5 alpha chain, i.e., at or immediately adjacent to amino acid residue 733 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Post-translational modifications can alter the mobility of proteins during SDS-PAGE electrophoresis. One such modification is the addition of carbohydrate via N-linked glycosylation. As discussed above under the heading "Background Physiology & Pathology", C5 is glycosylated, as is C5a. C5a is glycosylated at an asparagine residue corresponding to amino acid number 723 of the full length pro-C5 precursor of human C5 (SEQ ID NO:2).

Computer analysis of the human C5 alpha chain suggests potential N-linked glycosylation sites at positions corresponding to amino acid numbers 893, 1097, and 1612 of SEQ ID NO:2. In order to determine the contribution of carbohydrate to the electrophoretic mobility of both the tryptic and acid fragments, enzymatic deglycosylation of the fragments was performed and followed by western blot analysis. It was determined that each tryptic fragment lost approximately 3 kDa in apparent molecular weight while the acid fragment lost approximately 6 kDa.

This result was interpreted as indicating that the tryptic fragments were each glycosylated at a single site and that the 46 kDa acid fragment was glycosylated at two sites (one of which was the known glycosylation site in C5a referred to above). The diminished mobility observed following deglycosylation agrees with the computed prediction of a second N-linked glycosylation site within the first 233 amino acids of the C5 alpha chain.

N-terminal sequence analysis determined that the first four amino acids of the 46 kDa fragment generated by 1N acetic acid treatment was Thr Leu Gln Lys. This sequence is found only once in the full length human pro-C5 precursor molecule -- at a position corresponding to amino acids 660 through 663 of SEQ ID NO:2. This four amino acid sequence also corresponds to the sequence of the amino-terminus of the alpha chain of human C5 and, thus to the amino-terminus of human C5a.

In order to more precisely map the binding site of 5G1.1, overlapping peptide analysis was performed. The sequence predicted to be contained within the 17 kDa section of human C5 described above (SEQ ID NO:2; amino acids 893 through 1019) together with an extension of 43 amino acids towards the N-terminus and 30 amino acids towards the C-terminus (a total of 200 amino acids) was synthesized as a series of 88 overlapping peptides by solid phase synthesis on polypropylene filters (Research Genetics Inc., Huntsville, AL).

The 43 and 30 amino acid extensions were added to allow for possible inaccuracies in the prediction of the span of this 17 kDa region. Such inaccuracies are likely due to the uncertainty of the specific extent of glycosylation of each of the various regions of C5a, as well as to the aberrant gel mobility that is commonly seen when highly charged polypeptides (such as the 5G46k fragment and the 5G27k fragment) are analyzed by SDS-PAGE. As discussed above in the Summary of the Invention, a 200 amino acid peptide corresponding to the region covered by these overlapping peptides is referred to herein as the "5G200aa" peptide.

Because of the expectation that the 5G1.1 antibody would bind at the C5a cleavage site, an additional set of 8 overlapping peptides was synthesized that spanned a 30 amino acid section spanning the C5a cleavage site (amino acids 725 through 754 of SEQ ID NO:2). A peptide having the sequence of this 30 amino acid section is referred to herein as the "cleavage site peptide". A 325aa peptide spanning amino acid residues 725-1049 of SEQ ID NO:2 (this peptide spans the region

covered by the cleavage site peptide and the 5G200aa peptide) is referred to herein as the "5G325aa" peptide.

These filters were probed with 5G1.1 as described above for ECL western blot analysis, and a set of 4 overlapping peptides spanning the region corresponding to amino acid residues 3-19 of the KSSKC peptide (SEQ ID NO:1) each gave a positive signal indicative of monoclonal antibody binding, while peptides corresponding to the C5a cleavage site did not bind to the 5G1.1 antibody.

EXAMPLE 14

C3/C4 Binding Assay

C3 and C4 are both key components of classical C5 convertase, and C3 is also a key component of alternative C5 convertase. These C5 convertases are required for the conversion of C5 to active C5a and C5b. The ability to block C5 binding to C3 and C4 is thus a desirable property for an antibody to be used in treatment of complement mediated diseases in accordance with the present invention.

96 well microtiter plates were coated with 50µl/well, 10µg/ml of either purified human C3 or C4 (Quidel) for 1 hour at 37°C. The plates were then blocked with 200µl/well of TBS containing 1% BSA for 1 hour at room temperature. After three washes in TBS .1% BSA, purified human C5 (Quidel, 20µg/ml in TBS 1% BSA) was added to the plates in the presence (20µg/ml) or absence of a 5G1.1 Fab (derived from 5G1.1 by conventional papain digestion) and allowed to incubate for 1 hour at 37°C. After three washes in TBS/.1% BSA, a monoclonal antibody directed against the C5 beta chain (N19/8, 5µg/ml) was added to the wells to detect C5 bound to either C3 or C4. After three final washes in TBS/.1% BSA, the plate was developed using a horseradish peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibody and the appropriate substrate.

The results of these assays showed that the 5G1.1 mAb inhibited the binding of purified human C5 to either C3 or C4 by at least 60% to 90%. As used herein and in the claims, such a 60% to 90% reduction in C3 or C4 binding is a "substantial

reduction" in C3 or C4 binding.

EXAMPLE 15

Construction and Functional Analysis of N19/8 Chimeric Fab

The heavy chain and light chain variable regions from the hybridoma N19-8 were cloned by PCR using the Ig-Prime System (Novagen) as described by the manufacturer. Clones from multiple independent PCR reactions were sequenced to detect mutations introduced during the PCR amplification. An N19-8 VL/human kappa constant region chimeric cDNA was created by using a plasmid containing the N19-8 light chain variable region and the plasmid pHuCK (Hieter et al., 1980 Cell, 22:197-207) as templates in an overlapping PCR reaction.

Similarly, an N19-8 VH/human IgG1 Fd chimeric cDNA was created using a plasmid containing the N19-8 heavy chain variable region and a plasmid containing the human IgG1 gene (obtained from Ilan R. Kirsch, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD) as templates. This Fd construct contained the first nine amino acids of the IgG1 hinge region, including the cysteine residue which normally forms a disulfide bond with the terminal cysteine residue of the kappa light chain.

The resulting chimeric cDNAs were separately cloned into the APEX-1 vector using appropriate flanking restriction enzyme sites introduced during the PCR amplification procedure and sequenced. A fragment containing the promoter, intron, and cDNA insert from one of these APEX vectors was subsequently subcloned into the polylinker of the other to produce a single vector directing the expression of both the light chain and Fd. The tandem expression cassette from this APEX-1 vector was subsequently subcloned into APEX-3P, which was transfected into 293 EBNA cells for expression of the chimeric Fab.

When tested for the ability to block complement hemolytic activity and C5a generation, the chimeric N19/8 Fab retained the ability to block hemolytic activity, but lost 50% of its C5a generation blocking capacity.

Throughout this application various publications and patent disclosures are referred to. The teachings and disclosures thereof, in their entireties, are hereby incorporated by reference into this application to more fully describe the state of the art to which the present invention pertains.

Although preferred and other embodiments of the invention have been described herein, further embodiments may be perceived by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the following claims.

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TABLE 1

Prevention/Reduction of Proteinuria by Treatment With Anti-C5 Antibodies

	Before Treatment	After Treatment
	Urine Protein (mg/dL)	Urine Protein (mg/dL)
PBS Control		
mouse A	none	100
mouse B	none	500
mouse C	none	500
mouse D*	trace	trace
mouse E	100	100
Anti-C5 Treated		
mouse 1	none	none
mouse 2	none	30
mouse 3	30	trace
mouse 4	30	30
mouse 5	30	30
mouse 6	100	30

* Mouse D had more than 500mg/dL urine glucose after treatment